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Telangana Today

FOR LOCAL TO GLOBAL NEWS

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Navy to bolster combat prowess amid tensions

WORLD | PAGE 09

22 killed as Israel launches strike on school in Gaza

Forces say it targeted a Hamas command centre in what used to be a school

SPORT | PAGE 10

India on brink of victory; Gill, Pant slam centuries

Revanth's kin involved in Rs 8,888 crore scam: KTR

Says the CM will not be allowed to go scot-free in AMRUT 2.0 scandal

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Saturday revealed a massive scam involving the family of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, which, amounting to Rs 8,888 crore, revolves around awarding of contracts under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Rama Rao said the Chief Minister would not be allowed to go scot-free in the scandal. Stating that the Chief Minister showed undue favoritism by awarding contracts to Shoda Constructions Private Limited, a company owned by his brother-in-law, Srujan Reddy, he said despite making a profit of only Rs 2 crore last year, Shoda Constructions was awarded contracts worth Rs 1,137.77 crore.

Questioning the eligibility of the company to handle such large-scale projects, Rama Rao also pointed that the Indian Hume Pipe Company Limited, which was roped in to benefit the CM's family, in compliance with SEBI regulations, declared that a joint venture was formed with AMR India Limited and Shoda Constructions to execute water supply and sewerage projects. However, the Indian Hume Pipe Company would only execute 20 per cent of the works, valued at Rs 27.55 crore. Rama Rao on Friday wrote to Union Ministers Manohar Lal Khattar and others, demanding an inquiry into the alleged corruption in the AMRUT tenders. He pointed out that after the Congress came to power in Telangana, the MA&UD Department has so far awarded contracts worth a staggering Rs 8,888 crore under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme alone.

He called for a thorough investigation to uncover the truth about the contracts awarded to the Chief Minister's family members and to ensure transparency in the tendering process. He also urged the Centre to review all tenders awarded since the formation of the Congress government in Telangana and to cancel any found to be irregular. He emphasised that the Chief Minister owed an explanation to the people of Telangana. Pointing out that similar violations of the office-for-profit clause have led to the prosecution of prominent political figures, including Sonia Gandhi and former Chief Ministers BS Yediyurappa and Ashok Chavan, Rama Rao called for the Prevention of Corruption Act to be invoked against Revanth Reddy. Rama Rao also criticised the silence of BJP leaders from Telangana on the issue, suggesting possible collusion between the BJP at the Centre and the Congress in the State. The BJP leaders from Telangana, including BJLP legislature party leader A Maheswar Reddy, had previously raised the issue but have since fallen silent. Rama Rao urged BJP Ministers from the State, G Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay, to ensure transparency and accountability in the matter.

He also warned that if the BJP at the Centre failed to act, it would be seen as collusion with the Congress government in Telangana.

Undue favouritism

SHODA CONSTRUCTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED OWNED BY CM'S BROTHER-IN-LAW SRUJAN REDDY

- Indian Hume Pipe Company Limited roped in to benefit CM's family
- Joint venture formed with AMR India Limited and Shoda Constructions to execute water supply, sewerage projects
- However, Indian Hume Pipe Company would only execute 20% of works, valued at **Rs 27.55 cr**
- Centre urged to review all tenders awarded since formation of Congress government in Telangana
- Thorough probe sought to uncover truth about contracts awarded to CM's family members

Despite making a profit of only Rs 2 cr last year, firm was awarded contracts worth **Rs 1,137.77 crore**

"Similar violations of office-for-profit clause led to prosecution of prominent political figures, including Sonia Gandhi and former Chief Ministers BS Yediyurappa and Ashok Chavan. Prevention of Corruption Act should be invoked against Revanth Reddy

— KT RAMA RAO, BRS WORKING PRESIDENT

'Samprokshana at Tirumala soon'

Naidu says govt will consult pontiffs, experts on future course of action

AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday said the government will consult pontiffs, sages, priests and other top Hinduism experts on the future course of action to be taken following allegations of animal fat adulteration in Tirupati laddus.

The Chief Minister said after consultation, the government will take its decision with respect to the TTD, the official custodian of the world-renowned Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple in Tirupati. "We are discussing what to do next and how to go forward with respect to TTD. After deliberating with pontiffs, priests and Sanatana Dharma (Hinduism) experts, we will decide on how the samprokshana (ritualistic sanitisation) should be done," said Naidu in an official release.

Highlighting the unique glory of the Tirupati laddu, the CM noted that many people tried to make better prasadams (consecrated food) but failed at it. "In Ayodhya also they tried to replicate Tirumala laddu and workers were also taken from here but it was not possible. This matter was told to me by people from there (Ayodhya)," said Naidu, adding that Tirupati laddu is centuries old.

Further, the Chief Minister vowed that the government will accord utmost primacy to the holiness of temples and protect devotees' sentiments. "Every religion will have some customs and traditions and the government needs to protect them," he said, adding that several alleged desecrations occurred in temples during YSRCP regime. Castigating YS Jagan for his rebuttal to the animal fat allegations and the lab report on the ghee used in laddus, Naidu questioned as to how cow ghee could be procured as low as Rs 320 per kg.

Sanctity of 'laddu prasadam' restored

Meanwhile, the TTD said sanctity of the the 'laddu prasadam' has been restored. "The divinity and purity of Srivari laddu is unblemished now. TTD is committed to protecting the holiness of Laddu Prasadam to the satisfaction of all the devotees," it said in the post.

('ROW AFTER TTD STOPPED USING NANDINI GHEE' PAGE 7)

In a nutshell

AP student ends life in NIT Patna

PATNA: A female student of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Patna was found hanging inside her hostel room on the campus located in Bihta on the outskirts of the Bihar capital. The body of the woman, who hailed from Andhra Pradesh, was found hanging from the ceiling fan of her hostel room. A suicide note was also found at the spot. The exact cause of the incident is not yet known, police said. PTI

Arms, ammunition found in Manipur

KOLKATA: A day after the Manipur government informed about the ingression of tribal militant outfits from Mya nmar, the Indian Army in coordination with the State police recovered two caches of weapons and warlike stores dur ing raids in Churacha ndpur, Thoubal and Imphal East. The operation led to the recovery of two 9 mm pistols, single-barrel rifle and two locally fabricated rockets among others. IANS

Guj: Railway track tampered with

SURAT: Unidentified persons allegedly tampered with a railway track by removing fish plates and loosening several bolts in an attempt to derail trains in Gujarat's Surat district. The sabotage bid came to light before a train could pass through the affected track between Kosamba and Kim railway stations as a lineman detected the damage and alerted the authorities in the early hours of the day. PTI

Kedarnath yatra put on hold

RUDRAPRAYAG: The pilgrimage to Kedarnath by road was put on hold aft er part of the trek route caved in near Jungle Cha tti leaving thousands of pilgrims returning from the Himalayan temple stranded. The helicopter service remains functional. Rudraprayag SP Akshay Prahlad Konde said 10-15 metre stretch of the trek route caved in suddenly, making movement along the route impossible. PTI

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 115
Retail live	Rs. 137
With skin	Rs. 199
Skinless	Rs. 226
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 74

Coal miners fume over bonus share

SANTOSH PADALA
Mancherial

Say the Rs 796 crore announced was just 16% of the total profit of SCCL as against 32% of share in 2022-23 FY

Coal miners of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) expressed resentment over the Congress government deviating from practice and announcing Dasara bonus for them from a truncated amount of the company's profits.

They said the Rs 796 crore announced for them was 33 per cent of Rs 2,412 crore, which remained after the SCCL decided to set aside Rs 2,289 crore for expansion plans from the overall profit of Rs 4,701 crore. Till last year, the practice was to announce 33 per cent of the overall profit, they said.

Responding to the State government's announcement on Friday that Rs 796 crore would be given as a Dasara bonus for the staff and workers of the SCCL for the financial year 2023-24, a majority of coal miners expressed disappointment after realising that their share, which would come up to around 16 per cent of the total profit of the SCCL as against 32 per cent of share in 2022-23 financial year.

They regretted that the share of profits actually declined by 16 per cent when compared to the previous year, even as earnings of the SCCL went up by 112 per cent this fiscal.

On Saturday, when INTUC leaders, including Pulluri Laxman, visited a mine in Kasipet mandal, a group of coal miners confronted them, asking why Rs 2,289 crore was set aside for expansion plans. The staff and workers deserve Rs 1,550 crore, which makes 33 per cent of Rs 4,701 crore, they said, asking why the bonus was being given from the truncated amount of Rs 2,412 crore.

(SEE PAGES 2, 4)

Quad summit: Modi meets Biden

WILMINGTON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday met US President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the Quad summit here and the two leaders were expected to discuss a range of issues, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Modi was welcomed by Biden at his residence and the two leaders hugged each other. Biden held Modi's hand as he led him into the house. Modi, who is here as part of his three-day visit to the United States, will also hold separate bilateral meetings with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Japa nese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida who are here for Quad Summit.

(RELATED REPORT PAGE 8)

HEAVY DOWNPOUR

People make their way through a waterlogged stretch after heavy rains lashed the city on Saturday. — Photo: Surya Sridhar (REPORTS PAGE 2)

Debt-ridden farmer ends life

STATE BUREAU
Medak

With rising medical expenses for his ailing father's treatment pushing a farmer into a debt trap, the latter ended his life at his agriculture field in the early hours of Saturday.

The farmer, Halavath Srinivas (41), left his home at 1 am on Saturday and was found hanging from a tree by his family members at 6 am. According to Narsapur SI B Lingam, Lingam's father, Lachaiah, was seriously ill.

Srinivas borrowed Rs 4 lakh from various persons to spend on his father's treatment. However, Lachaiah did not recover, and Srinivas had nothing to spend on the treatment either. In a state of depression, the farmer resorted to the extreme step, the SI said. Srinivas was survived by his wife, son and daughter. A case was registered.

Atishi takes oath as new Delhi CM

NEW DELHI

Senior AAP leader Atishi was administered oath as the eighth Chief Minister of Delhi by Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Saturday. Saxena administered the oath of office and secrecy to Atishi who is now Delhi's third woman Chief Minister after Congress' Sheila Dikshit and BJP's Sushma Swaraj.

Among her new Council of Ministers, Saurabh Bharadwaj was the first to take oath followed by Gopal Rai, Kailash Gahlot, Imran Hussain and Mukesh Ahlawat, a new entrant in the Delhi Cabinet.

The swearing-in ceremony at the Raj Niwas here, which was a low-key affair, was attended by Atishi's predecessor and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal, former deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, and other party leaders and MLAs. Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel, Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta and Delhi CP Sanjay Arora also attended the ceremony. PTI

Atishi signs documents after taking oath as Delhi CM.

Air Marshal Amar Preet next IAF chief

NEW DELHI

Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh, a fighter pilot with more than 5,000 hours of flying experience, will take charge as the chief of the Indian Air Force after incumbent Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari retires on September 30.

Air Marshal Singh is currently serving as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff. "The government has appointed Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh, PVSM, AVSM, presently serving as Vice Chief of the Air Staff, as the next Chief of the Air Staff, in the rank of Air Chief Marshal, with effect from the afternoon of September 30," the Defence Ministry said. PTI

School textbooks to undergo revision

YUVRAJ AKULA
Hyderabad

The Education Department will embark on a comprehensive revision of school textbooks, aligning them with the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2023, released by the Central government.

This significant update, the first since 2015, is set to be taken up shortly by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), a wing of the School Education Department.

The revision will be carried out in a phased manner starting with non-languages — Mathematics, Sciences, and Social Sciences followed by languages Telugu, Hindi, Urdu and English.

For this, subject-wise expert committees, comprising senior professors and teachers will be constituted by the SCERT. After a series of consultations with the stakeholders and workshops, the textbooks will be revised. Divided into four stages — foundational, preparatory, middle and secondary — the NCF 2023 focuses on holistic development, equity and inclusion, curriculum flexibility, integration of technology and environmental consciousness among other areas.

The revision will be carried out in a phased manner starting with non-languages — Mathematics, Sciences and Social Sciences.

Multidisciplinary learning

It emphasises competency-based education, multidisciplinary learning, continuous assessment, local context and culture, and teacher empowerment, among other areas. As per the new framework, social science will have 20 per cent content at the local level, 30 per cent at regional level, 30 per cent at national level and 20 per cent at the international level.

(SEE PAGE 2)

FORECAST
Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers

Max. tem: 34.2°C
Min. tem: 24.2°C
RH: 65%
Rainfall: Nil

In Brief

HYDERABAD
Ozone Day contests

The International Ozone Day Elocution Competitions are scheduled to be held on September 30 at Telangana Pollution Control Board Auditorium on the theme 'India Cooling Action Plan'. All participants will be given certificates and winners will be given prizes and merit certificates, and the degree and engineering colleges can send four students as a team. The competitions will be held at TGPCB Auditorium A-3, Paryavaran Bhavan, Industrial opp Sanath Nagar PS from 11 am. 9177303127/ 9908179676

HYDERABAD
JEE preparations

FIITJEE, an institute offering preparation for JEE and other competitive exams, on Saturday announced FIITJEE Talent Reward Exam for students of Classes V to XI. The exam empowers students' academic journey with comprehensive academic diagnostic tools and gives them chance to be rewarded with scholarships. The exam will be conducted in offline, CBT and proctored modes on multiple dates. For registration and other details, visit www.fiitjee.com/ftre or nearby FIITJEE cen-

HYDERABAD
Leadership conclave

CII Telangana organised 10th edition of CII Indian Women Network's annual Leadership Conclave in Hyderabad with the theme 'UPLIFT- Rising together'. The conclave was addressed by senior government officials and key industry leaders. Minister Dr. Dansari Anasuya Seethakka, said workplaces need to be a safe space for women and the State Government is keen to closely work with industry to ensure this and there is absolute need to build a safer tomorrow by uplifting the women.

After a lull, rain makes a comeback

Offer respite from sultry conditions that gripped Hyderabad

Motorists make their way through a waterlogged road in Hyderabad. According to the Telangana State Development Planning Society forecast, Hyderabad will experience light to moderate rainfall over the next two days.

CITY BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Rains returned with renewed vigour to Hyderabad on Friday night after a bright and sunny week that sort of gave a summer sense to the denizens. With rains having taken a pause, the last week had the mercury climbingm particularly during the day time, even crossing the 35 degree Celsius mark in several parts of the city.

Friday night, Hyderabad welcomed the much-needed rains that swept through the city. The rains, which persisted through Saturday early hours, offered respite from sultry conditions that had gripped the city.

Starting late in the evening as a drizzle, the rains gained intensity in the night and pounded most parts of the city and suburbs.

According to the data released by the Telangana State Development Planning Society, various parts of Hyderabad received light to moderate showers, with some areas experiencing substantial downpours.

Bansilalpet topped the rainfall chart, logging 76.3 mm in the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 am on Saturday. Gunfoundry followed closely with 68.8 mm, while Nampally and Uppal registered 68.5 mm and 67 mm, respectively.

The early hours of Saturday remained cloudy with occasional drizzle but by the noon time, the sun was back piercing through the blanket of clouds and day temperature rose a little. However, for most part of the day, the weather remained much more comfortable than what denizens have experienced last week. On Friday night, the civic body teams were deployed across the city to attend to issues of water logging and clearing the stagnation points. The Telangana State Development Planning Society forecast Hyderabad to experience more light to moderate rainfall over the next two days.

Lightning

However, heavy rains lashed Hyderabad on Saturday evening, alongwith thunder and lightning in some parts of the city. Commuters were stuck in traffic and faced issues owing to water logging at various places.

According to the India Meteorological Department forecast, the city is expected to have a generally cloudy sky with light to moderate rain or thundershowers till September 25. On September 24, the forecast looks at the possibility of intense rains at times accompanied by gusty winds.

Traffic comes to a standstill

HYDERABAD: Following heavy rains that lashed the city on Saturday evening, several roads in the city were waterlogged, leading to massive traffic jams. From Gachibowli to Ameerpet and Banjara Hills and other parts, heavy rains had weekend commuters and those returning from work stranded in the evening. The rain, which was more intense till around 8 pm, had the vehicles, two-wheelers and cars, stuck in long and winding jams. Even as the civic body teams rushed out to clear the water logging, the jams were cleared and restoration of traffic flow took a long time.

DESTINATION US

Tips for applying to US performing arts schools

If you want to pursue degrees in arts fields, here's what you need to know

Aspiring to study performing arts in the United States opens doors to a world of creative expression, diverse opportunities, and a rigorous academic environment. This article highlights essential tips for students interested in pursuing degrees in acting, music, dance, and other performing arts fields.

Understanding degree options

The performing arts landscape in the US offers a variety of degree options, including Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), Master of Arts (MA), and Master of Fine Arts (MFA).

The BA is generally broader in scope, offering more liberal arts courses alongside your chosen performing arts major. It provides flexibility, allowing students to explore other academic interests. On the other hand, the BFA is highly specialised and professionally oriented, with a focus on intensive training in your chosen field, whether it be acting, dance, or music.

At the graduate level, similar distinctions exist between the Master of Arts (MA) and the Master of Fine Arts (MFA). The MFA is considered a terminal degree in the fine arts, preparing students for professional careers in acting, directing, and other areas within the performing arts.

Choosing between conservatory and university programmes

Another crucial decision is whether to apply to a conservatory or a university. Conservatory programmes are often shorter, non-degree programmes that offer focused, professional training in the performing arts. These are ideal for students who are passionate about honing their craft but may not be interested in earning a degree.

In contrast, university programmes offer a broader education, including liberal arts courses in addition to performing arts training.

Preparing your application

The application process for US performing arts programmes includes several key components. Beyond standard materials like transcripts and recommendation letters, your personal statement and audition are critical elements.

For your essay, it's essential to share your personal journey, motivations, and passion for the performing arts. Authenticity is crucial, as these essays provide insight into the applicant's personality and motivations.

The interview process is an opportunity to further demonstrate passion and communication skills. Applicants should be relaxed and prepared to discuss their artistic goals, experiences, and why they are a good fit for the school.

Equally important is your audition. Whether in person or via video, your audition is your opportunity to showcase your talent and potential. Choose audition materials that highlight your strengths, whether it be a monologue, song, or dance performance.

Audition tips: Confidence and preparation

When it comes to auditions, preparation is key. Rehearse thoroughly and ensure you are confident with your chosen material. Be mindful of the audition requirements for each programme, as they can vary significantly. Pay attention to your dress code and ensure it aligns with the type of performance you're presenting. Dancers should also consider practical details, such as the floor type at the audition venue and appropriate footwear.

Deadlines and rolling admissions

Finally, be mindful of application deadlines. Many US performing arts schools have rolling admissions, meaning applications are reviewed as they are received. Applying early can increase your chances of securing a spot and qualifying for scholarships.

— US Consulate General Hyderabad

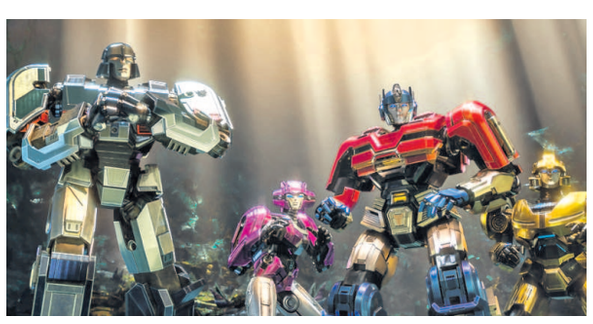
Info at your fingertips

Please visit the US-India Educational Foundation's website to learn more about studying in the US: https://www. usief.org. in/Hyderabad.aspx

- Phone/Whatsapp: 91-8008462712/8008465712/ 8008462560
- Email: usiefhyderabad@usief.org.in, hyderabad@educationusa.org

EDUCATION USA

'Transformers One': An origin story no one wants



Title: Transformers One
Director: Josh Cooley
Cast: Chris Hemsworth, Brian Tyree Henry, Scarlett Johansson, Laurence Fishburne, Keegan-Michael Key

Movie review

Movie origin stories finally reach their nadir this week with 'Transformers One', the super-violent, toy-selling vehicle that tells the tale of how Optimus Prime and Megatron went from besties to foes.

The computer-animated 'Transformers One' is out of time, a throwback to a few years ago when Hollywood mined popular IP for forgotten heroes, built overly complex worlds and then ramped up the action so that the audience just got numbed to a blur of battles.

The story by Andrew Barrer and Gabriel Ferrari is basically the Bible's Cain and Abel with a detour into the Roman Empire and the Hasbro figurines' accumulated mythology, which seems to be a series of never-ending epic battles between good and evil. The main heroes here are buddies Orion Pax and D-16 — who will become mortal enemies Optimus Prime and Megatron by the end — and we meet them when they are lowly miners, basically non-transforming bots digging for reserves of the energy cleverly called Energon. They all serve Sentinel Prime, the leader of the subterranean Iacon City, who is not what he seems. The two friends join with mining manager Elita-1 (Scarlett Johansson) and Keegan-Michael Key's B-127 (who will later become fan favourite Bumblebee) to journey to the surface of the planet, find the Matrix of Leadership and get a hero's welcome. AP

Honour for Dr Santosh Honavar

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Dr. Santosh G Honavar, Director of Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery and Ocular Oncology at the Centre for Sight Eye Hospital, has, yet again, claimed the top spot among researchers in ophthalmology in India for the fourth consecutive year.

The rankings for the year 2024 were announced by a panel of experts from Stanford University and Elsevier, featuring the top 2 per cent of researchers globally, based on the impact of their work in 2023.

Dr. Honavar is an internationally renowned ophthalmologist with expertise in eye cancers, and his illustrious career has earned him accolades such as the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award from the Government of India and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Experiential meditation session

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Noted filmmaker Shekhar Kapur and actor Tanya Maniktala were part of the second day of 'Rising with Kindness' youth summit being organised at Kanha Shanti Vanam.

A group Heartfulness experiential meditation session was led by Daaji, guide of Heartfulness and president of Shri Ram Chandra Mission, during the event. It was also attended by Irrigation Minister, Uttam Kumar Reddy, apart from Dr. Hamdan Al Shaer, Deputy Chairman of Zayed International Foundation for the Environment; Martin Raiser, SVP South Asia, World Bank; Sushil Ram, Advisor at the Commonwealth Secretariat; Paula Padrino Vilela, UNCCD; and Jennifer Larson, US Consul General.

Daaji said, "The second day of Rising with Kindness also coincides with International Day of Peace. Our youth and students are the harbingers of spreading peace in the future."

Sign language training for KFC employees

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

In celebration of International Day of Sign Languages, KFC has become the first QSR in India to launch a Sign Language training programme for all its employees.

The first-of-its-kind training is required to be undertaken by all 17,000 KFC employees, who are spread across 240 cities in 1,200 restaurants, as well as those working in the brand's corporate offices, a press release said.

Sreenidhi rolls out DAW programme

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Sreenidhi Educational Group has announced the inauguration of the Defence Aspirants Wing (DAW), a dedicated programme aimed at grooming young men and women for a successful career in India's armed forces.

The inaugural was held at Sreenidhi campus, with defence experts and educational leaders in attendance. Sreenidhi Educational Group Leadership CEO Abhijit Rao Katikaneni, Group Director Career Development Center Vasudeva Rao Yellapu and Dean Student Affairs Dr Divya, Lt. Praveen, were also present.

DAW is designed to provide comprehensive training and mentorship to students aspiring to join the National Defence Academy, Combined Defence Services, and other defence examinations. The programme will focus on physical fitness, leadership development and academic preparation, ensuring that students meet the high standards required for armed forces.

Hackathon on generative AI

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Nalla Narasimha Reddy Education Society's Group of Institutions organised a national-level hackathon on generative AI.

RRS Solutions managing director T Dheeraj Reddy spoke about the importance of AI's role and no-code application while Virtusa vice president E Ravindra Prasad spoke about the problem statement and its importance in the hackathon. EAIESB director Vijay Kumar enlightened students with Bhagavad Gita Shlokas and how it was related to AI's future.

Continuation
from page 1

School textbooks to undergo revision

Doing away with the rote learning method, the new framework recommends skill development and values cultivation. It also focuses on the holistic development of students, not just confining them to the textbook knowledge. It also focuses on addressing common fears of mathematics among students through interactive and innovative teaching and assessing methods.

If implemented in toto, Class X and XII might have exams twice in the academic year as the NCF - 2023 pitches for the semester system of the examination. To enrich the teaching and learning experience, the new framework recommends the usage of digital resources for teaching, assessment and evaluation. The last revision that SCERT undertook in 2015 was based on the NCF - 2005.

Coal miners fume over bonus share

The leaders of the trade union were clueless when the miners raised so many questions about the dip in the share of profits. They could not provide answers to the questions of the miners and left the mines without talking about the bonus at the worksites of the staff and employees of the SCCL. The coal miners felt that they would have got Rs 4 lakh as bonus this time if Rs 2,289 crore was not allocated for expansion. Stating that they were cheated by the Congress government, they said the miners would teach a lesson to the government for duping them by extending a lower bonus than previous in years.

'*Samprokshana* at Tirumala soon'

Earlier, castigating YS Jaganmohan Reddy for his rebuttal to the animal fat allegations and the NDDB lab report on the ghee used in laddus, the TDP supremo questioned as to how cow ghee could be procured as low as Rs 320 per kg.

He also questioned the previous YSRCP government policies such as reverse tendering employed for making laddus offered to the deity and the manner in which Reddy defended himself, alleging that Naidu was indulging in diversion politics. According to the CM, immediately after the new government formed, he directed TTD executive officer to completely sanitise Tirumala, who took several measures to improve the quality of laddus, which also included blacklisting some suppliers. "For quality laddus, we started buying ghee again from Nandini. He (EO) sanitised but we did not come out and reveal all these things every day. We just went ahead doing the work. I think the deity made me talk about the laddu issue now," Naidu added. PTI

Ganja prices on a high

Kilogram priced between Rs 50,000 and Rs 75,000 in retail market

ASIF YAR KHAN
HYDERABAD

With multiple law enforcement agencies cracking down on ganja traffickers and the supply chain badly hit, the prices of the contraband are drastically increasing.

A kilogram of ganja is now reportedly priced between Rs 50,000 and Rs 75,000 in the retail market. In the areas where it is cultivated, a kilogram of ganja is sold for Rs 2,500 while high quality ganja is now sold for Rs 10,000 a kg.

The prices have nearly doubled following the crackdown on the cultivators. An official of the Telangana State Anti Narcotics Bureau (TGSANB) said the cultivators have hiked the prices after knowing the price hike in the retail market. "Also, the fear of getting arrested is more after many of the cultivators were rounded up and sent to jail," the official said.

Usually, ganja is sold in 10 g packets by peddlers in the city. Excise and Prohibition Superintendent N Anji Reddy said the last-line peddlers buy 200-300 g from second-rung sellers and supply to the consumers in small packets of 10 g each. "A packet depending upon the quality is sold at Rs 500 to Rs 1,000 to customers," he said.

The ganja trade has a chain of suppliers. The law enforcement agencies categorise the suppliers in the first level, second level and local peddlers. The first level directly buys the contraband in bulk from the cultivators and supplies it to the second-level sellers in cities and towns, who in turn sell it to local peddlers. "Transporters are also charging a high amount as the risks have multiplied. So, the suppliers, too, have hiked the price to make up for the cost. Also, due to the crackdown, the cultivation has stopped in Andhra Pradesh and traders are heading to neighbouring Odisha to purchase it," said the official.

Op Dhoolpet: 40 cases registered

HYDERABAD: The Prohibition and Excise Department, as part of 'Operation Dhoolpet', registered 40 cases and arrested 119 persons, apart from seizing 240 kg of ganja. The operation was launched on July 16 by the Prohibition and Excise Department to curb the sale of ganja. A few families in Dhoolpet have been involved in the sale of cannabis for many years and law enforcement agencies, including the P&E Department, have been regularly taking up operations to curb the sale. "During a survey, it was found that 70-80 per cent of the ganja peddlers arrested or the contraband seized in the city had its links to Dhoolpet," said N Anji Reddy, Excise Superintendent and Incharge of Operation Dhoolpet. A 10 g packet of cannabis was sold for Rs 100, which is now Rs 500.

Man from Bihar held for selling ganja-laced chocolates

Rachakonda Police Commissioner G Sudheer Babu adressing the media about the case, in Hyderabad on Saturday.

HYDERABAD: A man, who was allegedly selling ganja-laced chocolates, was arrested by the Rachakonda police on Saturday. The police seized 3.8 kg of these chocolates from him. Santosh Kumar (26), a native of Bihar and resident of Maheshwaram, was bringing the chocolates from Bihar. According to police, Santosh, who works at a company in Maheshwaram, noticed that many workers were from Bihar and were addicted to the ganja-laced chocolates. "With the help of Birendar Singh, Santosh procured the ganja chocolates and sold them in the camp to co-workers. He was caught and 19 packets weighing 3.8 kg of the ganja chocolates were seized," Rachakonda Police Commissioner G Sudheer Babu said. Efforts are on to nab Birendar.

Techie, IIT graduate arrested for peddling ganja

HYDERABAD: A software engineer and an IIT graduate were arrested by the Excise and Prohibition Task Force, for allegedly selling ganja on Saturday. According to the officials, an IIT graduate, Pavan, who stays at a PG hostel in SR Nagar, was found selling the contraband to consumers after bringing it from Odhisa. The team raided the hostel and arrested him. A total of 1.2 kg of ganja was seized from him. The other person, Lokesh who stays in Manikonda, was arrested by the Task Force from his house. He procured ganja from one Srikanth at Kukatpally and sold it to IT professionals and students. The officials seized over one kilogram of the contraband from him. The sleuths identified 22 persons who bought ganja from them and are initiating legal action.

Four persons caught for selling hashish oil

HYDERABAD: The Rachakonda Special Operations Team (LB Nagar) caught four persons, who were in possession of hashish oil, and seized 2.3 kg of the contraband from them. Those apprehended are V Ranjith Kumar, Bollam Sai Nithin, Bachu Narendra and B Sai Krishna while their associate Sai is absconding. Rachakonda Police Commissioner G Sudheer Babu said Ranjith planned to sell hashish oil in the city to earn a quick buck. He took the help of Sai Nithin, Narendra and Krishna. All four hired a car and went to Andhra Pradesh where they purchased the hashish oil. On returning to Hyderabad, they were caught. Ranjith was earlier caught by the Excise police in February and, after being released from jail, he resumed his activities.

Every house in city to have rainwater harvesting structure

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Steeping up its efforts to conserve water and recharge the groundwater table, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) has decided to ensure that every household, which has a water connection or applies for one, has a rainwater harvesting (RWH) structure.

For this, a special drive under MA&UD Principal Secretary Dana Kishore will be taken up on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti. The water board will provide required technical assistance with qualified geologists to set up these water conserving structures, a press release said.

According to government regulations, construction of RWH is mandatory in houses built on an area of more than 300 square meters and it is a pre-requisite for providing permission for drinking water tap connection.

HMWSSB conducts survey

On the occasion of World Water Day, the water board came up with an application for the survey of RWH. In the first phase, it was decided to inspect around 42,784 premises of housing societies and as part of this, as of September 18, a total of 25,578 premises have been inspected.

Of the surveyed premises, 12,446 were found to have the structure and 13,132 did not have them.

The water board has also decided to charge double the amount from January 2025 from customers who book water tankers without constructing additional pits in their house premises.

Laddu row: Plaint against Jagan

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A city-based advocate filed a complaint at the Saidabad police station against former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy, TTD chairman, board members and officials for allowing the alleged use of low-quality ghee mixed with animal fat in sacred Tirupati laddu prasadam.

In his complaint, K Karuna Sagar, a practising High Court advocate, said the laddu prasadam offering has been an integral part of the faith of Hindus for 300 years and symbolises divine blessing. "I was shocked to see the lab test report from NDDB CALF Ltd confirming the use of ghee with animal fat in preparation of the world famous Tirupati laddu prasadam," he said.

He requested the police to investigate the matter and take action against Jaganmohan Reddy and others involved as such a practice hurts the religious sentiments of Hindus.

Home registrations drop in city, reveals report

Demand for homes below 1,000 sft decreases

City registered homes sales worth Rs 4,043 crore in August 2024, reflecting a 17 per cent year-on-year increase, according to the report.

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

This August, Hyderabad registered a marginal drop in the number of registrations of homes compared to last August.

According to the latest assessment released by Knight Frank India on Friday, the city registered homes sales worth Rs 4,043 crore during August 2024, reflecting a 17 per cent year-on-year (YoY) increase. However, the report documents that the number of registrations stood at 6,439, marginally down by 1 per cent YoY, compared to 6,493 last August.

The Knight Frank report said since January 2024, the city has registered a total of 54,483 homes, showing an 18 per cent rise compared to the same period last year. Similarly, the value of properties registered from January to August 2024 was recorded at Rs 33,641 crore, marking a 41 per cent YoY increase.

The Hyderabad residential market encompasses four districts — Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Rangareddy and Sangareddy, covering home sales relevant to both primary and secondary real estate markets. In August 2024, properties priced under Rs 50 lakh made up the largest share of registrations in Hyderabad, though this segment's share dropped from 67 per cent in August 2023 to 59 per cent this August. Meanwhile, the sales of homes priced at Rs 1 crore and above saw a significant rise, growing from 9 per cent to 15 per cent during the same period.

In terms of registration split by unit size, most registered properties in Hyderabad last month were concentrated in the range of 1,000 to 2,000 sft, comprising 69 per cent of all registrations. There was a decrease in demand for smaller homes (below 1,000 sq ft) with registrations dropping to 17 per cent in August 2024 from 19 per cent in August 2023. Conversely, the demand for larger properties (over 2,000 sft) increased with registrations rising to 14 per cent from 11 per cent in the same period.

At the district-level, Rangareddy led property registrations with 42 per cent of the market, up from 39 per cent in August 2023. Medchal-Malkajgiri and Hyderabad districts accounted for 41 per cent and 17 per cent of the total registrations, respectively.

Knight Frank said an in-depth analysis of Hyderabad's real estate market in August 2024 reveals notable trends in apartment launches. The demand for 3BHK units has grown from 56 per cent in August 2023 to 64 per cent in August 2024, while the launch of 2BHK units dropped from 25 per cent to 20 per cent YoY.

The demand for larger configurations homes such as 4BHK and 5BHK has slightly decreased, while smaller units such as 1BHK and 2.5BHK have remained relatively stable. Shishir Baijal, chairman and managing director, Knight Frank India, said, "Hyderabad's residential market is flourishing, particularly in the luxury segment, as more homebuyers seek spacious layouts and premium amenities."

4 held for spreading misinformation

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Shahinayathgunj police arrested four people for allegedly spreading misinformation and creating animosity between different religions during Milad-un-Nabi.

The arrested are Naresh Vyas (43), cameraman with YouTube channel 9 Bharat Samachar; Shaik Shaukath Ahmed (39), chairman of 5in News; Mahesh Kumar (51), chairman 9 Bharat Samachar; and Sandeep Bohra (55), businessman from Baghlingampally.

According to the police, they circulated two videos related to some minor incidents on Milad-un-Nabi on social media by allegedly exaggerating the facts. "They circulated the videos with the intention of creating feelings of enmity and hatred between different religious groups," DCP (South West) Chandra Mohan said.

9 arrested for stone pelting

Nine people, including three juveniles, were apprehended by the Mangalhath police in connection with the alleged stone pelting at Jummerat Bazaar on Thursday. Trouble broke out when a procession was passing through Jummerat Bazaar road in connection with Milad-un-Nabi celebrations. A resident, who was on a bike, asked them to pave way for him when an argument broke out between him and a man who was part of the procession.

Participants of the procession allegedly attacked the man and another person, who came to his rescue. Police registered a case and 13 people were identified. Nine were held.

In Brief

HYDERABAD
Truck mows down woman

A pedestrian was killed in a road accident at Medchal in the city suburbs on Saturday morning. The woman, Raga Jyothi (32), was crossing the road when a truck, on the way towards Outer Ring Road, hit and ran over the victim, said the Medchal police. The woman sustained injuries and died on the spot. A case was registered against the truck driver.

HYDERABAD
Caregiver jobs in Israel

The Telangana Overseas Manpower Company Limited (TOMCOM) will hold a special drive to facilitate caregiver jobs in Israel. Candidates having GNM or ANM diplomas and experience certificate in caregiver, and aged 25-45 years are eligible to apply. Selected candidates will be paid Rs 1.30 lakh per month.

HYDERABAD
Job mela at Begumpet

A mega job mela will be organised at Function Villa Function Hall, Begumpet, on Monday. Organizer Mannan Khan Engineer said many companies are participating in the job mela and offering jobs in various positions in pharma, health, IT & ITes firms, education, banks and others. WFH options will also be provided by a few companies.

HYDERABAD
USPC's demand

The Upadhyaya Sangala Porata Committee (USPC) steering committee demanded changes in the rationalisation rules in GO 25 and stop the unscientific process of adjustment of teachers in the schools. The USPC said it was absurd that two teachers were assigned to primary schools with 11 students, and two teachers to primary schools with 60 students. USPC questioned if the government has any intention of making appointments via the DSC, given the adjustment of teachers.

HYDERABAD
Event at Shamirpet

Forum for a Better Hyderabad — in collaboration with World Rivers Day and in association with civil society groups Government City College, Hyderabad; St Patrick's High School, Saroornagar; and Oxford Grammar School, Himayatnagar — is conducting 'A Walk Along A Tributary Of Krishna River' at Shamirpet lake canal bed in Medchal-Malkajgiri district on Sunday. It will be held from 9.30 am to noon. A photo exhibition on the lake will be also held on the day.

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Admission Notification for MBA "B" Category Seats for the year 2024-25 (Non- Minority institution)

Course	Total Intake	"B" category Seats (30%)	College code
MBA	180	54	ARIS

Applications Form & instructions to candidates can be downloaded from www.aristotle.ac.in or may be obtained from the College on all working days from 9am to 4 pm. Filled in applications should be submitted on or before 30/09/2024 in the college .Cost of application is Rs-1,500/- and Tuition fee is Rs-40,000/-per year .The eligibility norms & admission procedure will be strictly as per Telangana Govt. order & TGCHE.
Sd/- Principal

KG REDDY College of Engineering & Technology
AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION
Approved by AICTE , New Delhi,Affiliated to JNTUH, Hyderabad (Non-Minority Institution)
Recognized by UGC under section 2(f) of UGC act 1956
Chilkur (Vill), Moinabad (Mdl), R. R Dist,TS-501504 Ph: 9490773777
Website: www.kgr.ac.in Email: info@kgr.ac.in
Notification for "B" Category Admissions into MBA for Academic year 2024-25

Courses	MBA	ICET Counseling Code: KGRH
Intake	60	
"B" Category Seats (30%)	18	

Application form & Instructions to candidates can be downloaded from www.kgr.ac.in or obtained from the college on all working days from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Filled applications should be submitted along with Xerox copy of Certificates & application charges either in cash or by DD of Rs. 2,500/- (in favor of "Principal, KG Reddy College of Engineering & Technology", Payable at Hyderabad) on or before **30th September 2024** in the college admission section. Tuition fee Rs. 45,000 /- per year.
The eligibility norms & admission procedure will be strictly as per Telangana Govt. Order & TGCHE.
Sd/- Principal

KG REDDY College of Engineering & Technology
AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION
Approved by AICTE , New Delhi, Affiliated to JNTUH,Hyderabad (Non-Minority Institution)
Recognized by UGC under section 2(f) of UGC act 1956
Chilkur (Vill), Moinabad (Mdl), R. R Dist,TS-501504 Ph: 9490773777
Website: www.kgr.ac.in Email: info@kgr.ac.in
Notification for "B" Category Admissions into M. Tech for Academic year 2024-25

Courses	CSE	VLSI DESIGN	PGECET Counseling Code:KGRH1
Intake	24	24	
"B" Category Seats (30%)	7	7	

Application form & Instructions to candidates can be downloaded from www.kgr.ac.in or obtained from the college on all working days from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Filled applications should be submitted along with Xerox copy of Certificates & application charges either in cash or by DD of Rs. 2,500/- (in favor of "Principal, KG Reddy College of Engineering & Technology", Payable at Hyderabad) on or before **30th September 2024** in the college admission section. Tuition fee Rs. 57,000 /- per year.
The eligibility norms & admission procedure will be strictly as per Telangana Govt. Order & TGCHE.
Sd/- Principal

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India
REGIONAL OFFICE: SECUNDERABAD, First Floor, Bunglow No.109, New No.1-7-252-254, Oxford Street, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad-500003.
Premises Required on Lease at Thumkunta
Bank requires a well-constructed commercial premises admeasuring 1200 sq.ft.±10% carpet area in ready possession/under construction at **Thumkunta** area on **Main Road on ground floor.** For further details, please visit Bank's website **www.unionbankofindia.co.in** / e-Procurement portal **https://eprocure.gov.in.** Last date for submission of bids in prescribed format is **23/09/2024 to 30/09/2024 up to 05:00 PM.** The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons whatsoever.
Regional Head

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(A Government of India Undertaking)
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E Mail: cs4732@pnb.co.in
PUBLIC SALE NOTICE
Bids are invited for Open Auction of below mentioned Vehicle financed by us in **"as is where is"** condition. As the borrowers have defaulted in payment of EMI's of the loans, Bank has Seized the Vehicle and decided to sale these vehicles through open auction on the date mentioned below.

B.O: Malakpet Branch, Hyderabad	Auto/Motor Cab/ Vehicle Register No.	Reserve Price & EMD & Bid Incremental Amount
Borrower: Devarashetty Kavitha, 23-28, Flat No.201, Sri Laxmi Ambica Residency, Krishnaveni Nagar, Kothapet, Hyderabad-500060	Morris Garages Electric Vehicle Year of Mfg: 2022 Reg. No: TS 07 JR 2399 Color: Currant Red	**Rs.14,58,000/- & Rs.1,46,000/- & Rs.5,000/-**

Date & Time of Auction: 08-10-2024 From 10:30 AM to 04.30 PM, Auction Place: Punjab National Bank, BO: Malakpet (516610), Raghavendra Classic Homes, Hyderabad.
The Successful Bidder should deposit 25% of the Bid amount to be paid on the same day. The remaining 75% of the Amount should be paid to the Bank within 7 days. In case of default in payment, the amount already paid will be forfeited. The Vehicle will be sold through Auction again. The borrower has flexibility to pay the outstanding amount along with upto date interest and other charges till the auction time. If not, the vehicle will be sold. For Inspection of Vehicle Please contact: Branch Manager, Punjab National Bank, Malakpet Branch, **Ph No.: 9908801551.** For Other details Please contact: Punjab National Bank, Circle Sastra Centre, Hyderabad, Phone Nos.: **9160247376.** The Bank shall reserve the right to cancel/Postpone of the Auction.
Date: 21-09-2024 Authorized Officer

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India
KUKATPALLY VIVEKANANDA NAGAR BRANCH (11191)
Plot No.3&4, Main Road, Vivekananda Nagar Colony, Kukatpally, Hyderabad, TS-500072
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property)
{RULE 8(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002}
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Union Bank of India, Kukatpally, Vivekananda Nagar Branch,** Hyderabad under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) of the Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice dated 08/07/2024 calling upon the borrower/Guarantors details mentioned as under **M/S Shree Venus Health Sciences,** Plot No.199 P1, Sy.nos. 108(Part) & 72 (Part), Raichur Growth Centre, Chikasugur Hobli Village, Raichur Taluk, Raichur District, Karnataka State-584101. **Partner/Guarantor/Property Owner: Mr. Patibandla Brahmaiah, S/o. Patibandla Subramanyam,** Plot No.16, Phase-I Mythrinagar, Sy.no.224(Part), Madinaguda, Serilingampally Mandal, Hyderabad-500049. **Partner/Guarantor: Mrs. Patibandla Sreedevi, W/o. Patibandla Brahmaiah,** Plot No.16, Phase-I Mythrinagar, Sy.No.224(Part), Madinaguda, Serilingampally Mandal, Hyderabad-500049 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.1,16,67,957.61(One crore sixteen lakh sixty-seven thousand nine hundred fifty-seven rupees and sixty-one paise only)** within sixty days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrower as well as guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the Act read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **20th day of September of the year 2024.**
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.
The borrower(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Union Bank of India, Kukatpally, Vivekananda Nagar Branch,** Hyderabad for the amounts **Rs.1,16,67,957.61(One crore sixteen lakh sixty-seven thousand nine hundred fifty-seven rupees and sixty-one paise only)** as of 08/07/2024 and interest and costs thereon.
DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
Nature of Securities: Collateral
All that residential land and building bearing H.No. 5-2/16 on plot bearing no.16, in survey no.224 (Part 1), admeasuring 150.00 sq yds or equivalent to 125.40 sq mtrs situated at rest of the area of Madeenaguda Village, Serilingampally Mandal and Municipality, Ranga Reddy district, Telangana and owned by **Mr. Patibandla Brahmaiah.**
Boundries: North: Plot No.7, South: 40' ft wide road, East: Plot No.6/1, West: Plot No.15
Date: 20/09/2024, Authorized Officer,
Place: Hyderabad Union Bank of India

'Congress govt betrayed miners'

Harish condemns move to reduce workers' share of profits

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The Congress government's decision to slash the bonus for workers of the SCCL has drawn sharp criticism from former Minister T Harish Rao, who condemned the government for betraying the workers who have been the driving force behind the company's success.

Expressing his anger over Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's announcement, Harish Rao said that instead of bringing good news to the workers during the festive season, the government had brought disappointment.

The BRS strongly condemned the government's decision to reduce the workers' share of the profits by 50 per cent. Despite the workers' relentless efforts leading to record profits, the Congress government dashed their hopes of receiving a fair bonus. For the financial year 2022-23, Singareni earned a profit of Rs 2,222 crore, from which 32%, approximately Rs 710 crore, was distributed to the workers. However, for the year 2023-24, the company made a remarkable profit of Rs 4,701 crore. Based on the 33% share as announced by the government, workers were expected to receive around Rs 1,550 crore. Yet, the amount declared was only Rs 796 crore, which was merely 16.9 per cent of the total profit. This raises a critical question - where has the remaining Rs 754 crore that rightfully belong to the workers gone? The government claimed a profit of Rs 4,701 crore but has only declared a 33 per cent bonus on Rs 2,412 crore, conveniently denying a share from the remaining Rs 2,289 crore, Harish Rao said.

Tributes paid to Konda Laxman Bapuji

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Prominent leaders of the BRS, including party working president KT Rama Rao, gathered at Telangana Bhavan on Saturday to pay homage to the late Konda Laxman Bapuji on his 12th death anniversary. The event saw a significant turnout of dignitaries who hailed Bapuji's legacy and contributions to the Telangana community.

Among those present were members of Rajya Sabha Vadiraj Ravichandra, Leader of Opposition in Legislative Council Sirikonda Madhusudanachari, former Minister V. Srinivas Goud, and MLAs Dr Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, Kaleru Venkatesh, and Maganti Gopinath.

They were joined by former MPs Badugu Lingayya Yadav and Ravula Chandrasekhar Reddy, as well as former MLAs J Surender, Balka Suman, Bollam Mallaiah Yadav, and Nomula Bhagat.

The leaders garlanded Bapuji's portrait before highlighting his invaluable services as a lawyer, minister, and fighter for the weaker sections of society. Bapuji's dedication to the Telangana cause and his relentless efforts for social justice were fondly remembered.

Other notable attendees included BRS leaders Dasoju Shravan Kumar, Juluru Gowrishankar, Chirumalla Rakesh, G Nagesh, Gellu Srinivas Yadav, Upendrachari, and D Balaraj.

Ponguleti counters KTR's charges

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Countering BRS working president KT Rama Rao's charges of irregularities in AMRUT 2.0 tenders, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy claimed there were no irregularities and demanded the former Minister to prove his charges.

The previous government had floated these tenders for three packages with a total worth of Rs 3,516 crore in September 2023. Despite the election code being in vogue then, special permissions were obtained and price bids were opened in November, 2023. After evaluation, three companies were offered Letter of Agreement, he said.

Addressing mediapersons here on Saturday, the Minister said after Congress government came to power, it was observed that these tenders were 3.99 per cent excess, following which Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy issued directions to officials to cancel the tenders and float fresh tenders with 2022-23 SSR rates, he said.

"Three companies filed their bids for works with 2.44 per cent lesser than previous tenders. On the contrary, the former MAUD Minister charged that Rs 8,888 crore scam took place. I demand that he prove his allegations," Srinivas Reddy said.

"If KT Rama Rao proves his charges, I will quit as Minister. If he fails, will he quit as MLA?" he asked.

FGG questions Minister's role in tender process

HYDERABAD: The Forum for Good Governance (FGG) found fault with the government for lack of transparency in administration and intervention of a Minister in tender processes to manipulate the outcome. In a letter to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, FGG secretary Soma Srinivas Reddy said it had come to light through a media report that using his position, a Minister had directly intervened in the tender process to manipulate the outcome. Payments were being made selectively, based on the intervention of certain Ministers, according to a recent news article. This lack of transparency was unfortunate.

Cong leaders complain against turncoats

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud's maiden meeting with leaders from various districts to discuss several issues saw many complaining about priority being accorded to leaders from other parties, who joined the Congress post the elections.

This apart, a few leaders also complained that officials were not considering their proposals in taking up different works in respective areas. The TPCC president, along with AICC Telangana incharge Deepadas Munshi, AICC incharge P Vishwanathan and others conducted a meeting with district leaders at Gandhi Bhavan.

Apart from elected public representatives and senior leaders from erstwhile Warangal, Karimnagar and Nizamabad attended the meeting. It was organised to discuss measures for strengthening the party at the village level, besides preparations for the ensuing local bodies' elections and other issues. However, a few leaders lamented that they were not being given priority at official programmes.

State gives nod for 800 MW thermal plant

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The State government has given the nod for construction of an 800 MW supercritical thermal power station in Ramagundam of Peddapalli district. This power plant would be constructed on the existing 62.5 MW RTS-B Station site.

The proposed plant would be constructed in a joint venture between TGGENCO and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL). The government has asked TGGENCO and SCCL authorities to work out modalities to form a joint venture to construct the power plant. The TGGENCO has been directed to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) within one month and submit it to the government.

Earlier, the State government was planning to hand over the construction of the proposed plant to SCCL, but under pressure from GENCO unions, it decided to construct it in a joint venture.

Ramagundam B Super Thermal Power Plant was commissioned in October 1971.

Silver Star reopens revamped showroom

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The state-of-the-art facility was inaugurated by Santosh Iyer, MD & CEO of Mercedes-Benz India.

Silver Star has announced the reopening of its revamped showroom and customer service centre, setting new benchmarks for luxury and customer experience in the automotive industry.

This state-of-the-art facility, designed under Mercedes-Benz's Modern Architecture of Retail (MAR) concept, was inaugurated by Santosh Iyer, MD & CEO of Mercedes-Benz India. The crown jewel of the upgraded Silver Star showroom is an exclusive Maybach Lounge, the first of its kind in India.

The Maybach Lounge offers a refined space where customers can experience opulence and elegance synonymous with the Maybach brand. This exclusive corner is tailored to elevate customer interactions, creating a personalised and luxurious ambiance, a press release said. Key features of the revamped showroom include a customer discussion area, stage car display, and upgraded customer service centre. Mercedes-Benz Silver Star Customer Service Centre, one of the largest workshops in the luxury segment, has been enhanced to meet global standards, making it one of the most advanced facilities in Hyderabad for luxury automobiles, the release added.

BC leaders issue ultimatum to govt

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS leaders and elected representatives from backward classes demanded the State government to spell out its stand on the demand for caste census and 42 per cent BC reservations in local body elections. At a meeting held in Telangana Bhavan, they served an ultimatum to the State government to respond positively on the twin demands before November 10 or face direct action.

They also demanded that the BC sub plan be considered for implementation well within the statutory framework as promised to the BCs in the Kamareddy Declaration by the ruling party. The meeting decided to study the benefits extended to the BCs in Tamil Nadu and Kerala by the respective State governments, and submit a report to the Telangana government pressing for the implementation of the same. The meeting also decided to take recourse to direct action if the government failed to respond positively to the demands.

Leader of Opposition in Legislative Council and former Speaker S Madhusudhanachari, Deputy Chairman Banda Prakash Raj, Rajya Sabha member Vadiraju Ravichandra were present. Former minister Srinivas Goud, former Rajya Sabha members Badugu Lingaya Yadav, former MLAs Bollam Mallaiah Yadav, Jajala Surender, Nomula Bhagat, MLC Shambhipur Raju and others took part.

In Brief

HYDERABAD

Bhatti on US, Japan tour

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka along with a team of officials left for a tour of the US and Japan on Saturday to attract investments and to study mining and green power sectors there. According to a statement, the Deputy Chief Minister would be accompanied by Special Chief Secretary (Finance) K Ramakrishna Rao, Energy Secretary Ronald Rose, SCCL Chairman and Managing Director N Balram, Special Secretary to Deputy CM Krishna Bhaskar among other senior officials. During the tour, the Deputy CM will visit the headquarters of leading companies and meet with investors at the international expo related to mining and green power sectors.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Lakshmi S Kamath W/o. Sathyanarayana Kamath R/o. 24-88/11/3, Lakshmi Nagar Colony, East AnandBagh, Malkajgiri, Hyderabad-500047 shall henceforth be known as **Shwetha Nayak S Y** affidavit no. Z 517326 sworn before notary Lakshmi S Kamath Dated: 20.09.2024. [TT-24808]

I, PERUVALA HARITHA REDDY, C/o. JAGATH REDDY PERUVALA, R/o. H.No. 3-15, Flat No. 304, Block No. 02, Opp: Small park, New Malhar, Sahara States, VTC: Mansoorabad, Po: GSI (s.r) Bandlaguda, Dist K.V RR, TS. 500068. change my name from P.HARITHA to **PERUVALA HARITHA REDDY** for all purposes [TT-8301]

I, NEELA SHRUTHI W/o. NEELA SRISHAILAM R/o. P.No:- 58, ROAD No-4, SAINATH COLONY, INJAPUR, ABDULLAPURMET MANDAL, RANGAREDDY- 501510, TS. CHANGED MY NAME AS **"BANGARU SRUTHI"** [TT-8301]

I, Boonigiri Lakshman, S/o Boonigiri Narsimha, R/o. H.No. 1-3-176/44, Kavadiguda, Secunderabad, TS. My son School Records mentioned as My name LAKSHMAN, My wife name ANITHA, My son name VIGNESH Surname not included. Have changed correct names as **BOONIGIRI LAKSHMAN, BOONIGIRI ANITHA, BOONIGIRI VIGNESH.** [TT-335822]

I, KAUKAB ANWAR R/o H.No. 11-2-939/2, Habeeb Nagar, Nampally, Hyderabad-500001. hereby change my Son's name MULHID MOHAMMED MIR HAFEEZ to **MUEED MOHAMMED MIR HAFEEZ** for all future purposes. [TT-11574]

I, Amtul Rahman Hajera (old name) W/o. Naveed Qureshi R/o.8-1-398/126 & 141, Paramount Hills, Tolichowki, Hyd., T.G., do hereby change my name as **"AMTUL REHMAN HAJIRA" (new name).** [TT-8131]

I, Armaan Barakab S/o. Akalakh Barakab, Passport No. S0723669 R/o: Flat No. 901, Block-14 Rain Tree Park, KPBH, VTC: Kukatpally, M-M.Dist, TG-85. Has Changed My Name as Armaan Akalakh Barakab Hence I shall be Called as **ARMAAN AKALAKH BARAKAB** Only. [TT-8131]

I, SHAHEEN FATHIMA MOHAMMED D/o KHAJA R/o: 8-14-29 Mustafa Nagar Ansari Road, Rajendra Nagar, Telangana 500052. Has Changed My Name as **SHAHEEN FATHIMA** D/o KHAJA MOHAMMED for all purpose. [TT-8131]

I, Mohammed Nazeeroddin S/o Mohammed Gowsoddin R/o 8-1-40/A/169 8-1-40/A/169 samatha colony Tolichowki shaikpet DO hereby change my name as **MOHD NAZEERUDDIN** for all purpose [TT-8131]

I, Naseem sultana W/o Mohd Nazeeruddin R/o. 8-1-40/A/169 Samatha Colony, Tolichowki Shaikpet do here by change my name as **NASIM UNNISA BEGUM** for all purpose [TT-8131]

I, Gayithri koduri. R/o: Flat no H- 6-1203, chitrapuri hills, manikonda, 500104-Hyderabad district TS Changed My Name As **Gayathri parimi** D/o. venkat rao koduri. [TT-8132]

I, Mohammed Ibrahim Khan R/o 13-5-431/a/12, Maheboob Colony, Tallagadda, Hyd, T.S. Changed my name as **Mohammed Ibrahim** S/o late Mohammed Ismail Khan [TT-8132]

I, Mohammed Samad Khan S/o. Haji Sardar Khan R/o.8-7-66/3, Momingally Old Tandur, Tandur-501141 Vikarabad Dist TS. Changed My Name As My **M A Samad Khan** [TT-8132]

LOST

I, CHAKILAM SAINATH, S/o. ANIL KUMAR CHAKILAM, R/o. H.No. 25-40/5/1, East Anand Bagh, Malkajgiri (M), M-M Dist.,-47, lost my Passport No. Z4590722 while Travailing from House to Anand bagh Bus Stop, on 19/9/24. If Anyone Found Pls **Cont: 9133130795** [TT-8131]

I, KANTHILAL JAIN, S/o. Jeevraj, R/o. H.No. 16-2-146/18, Flat No. G1, G-Flr, Tirumala Pearls Residency, Malakpet Colony, Malakpet, Amberpet, Hyd-36 lost My Original Property Doct. 1952/1988, & Doct. No. 11550/1987, SRO Hayathnagar, While Traveling from Madannapet to Purani Haveli. If Anyone Found Pls **Cont 9394558580** [TT-8131]

I, ZEHRA TABASSUM W/o Syed Azam Hussain R/o 8-1-402/29 Gulshan Colony Tolichowki Lost My Original Link Documents Bearing No: 4617/2008 Of Plot No: 485 In Survey No:129,130,131 Lost While Shifting House From Tolichowki To Shaikpet If Any One Found May **Cont: 8143962067** [TT-8131]

I, Mohammed Janimiya S/o Mohammed Jaffer R/o: H.No. 18-12-418/0/37/H/76, Hafiz Baba Nagar, Omer Colony, Hyderabad. Has Lost my Original SSC certificate because last 2021 yearFlood is Came in Hafiz Baba Nagar, Omer Colony.Anybody found **cont: 8019664118** [TT-8132]

I, Domalapally Sai Krishna, S/o. Domalapally Narender, R/o. H.No. 8-1-18-47-24, Kranti nagar Colony, Karmanghat, Saroornagar, R.R. Dist-79, has lost my Original Passport No. P7062390. While renovating my house in Krantinagar Colony, Karmanghat. if Anyone found Pls **Cont: 88860 91919** [TT-8132]

I, MERCY MANDAPATI W/o. SATISH KUMAR MANDAPATI R/o MIG 723 & 724, Hno.15-25-723/724, Sai Brundavanam Apts, KPHB PHASE-II, kukatpally, Hyd-72, TS., I have Lost my Original Passport No. P3385102 while shifting house from MIG 465 to MIG 723 & 724. If any one find Please **Contact - 9618923453** [TT-8132]

I, Nazmeen Begum W/o. Syed Mehraj R/o. HNo. 4-18-73 Mahmood Nagar Hassan Nagar Rajendranagar Hyd- 500052, TS. That while I am travelling on Auto on 10-09-2024 from Rajendranagar to IG mint Compound Khairathabad. I have Lost my Original Bearing No. X8755602 Date of issue. 04/05/2023, issue at HYD, if anybody Found pls **Contact- 7995369647** [TT-8132]

I, NITTA GIRI PRASAD, S/o. Nitta Mallaiah, Aged 43 years, R/o. Plot No. 133, Road No. 16, Bhavani Nagar, Mansoorabad, Chintalakunta, L.B.Nagar, RR Dist.-500 074, TS. I Lost My Original Passport No: K3622277 while travelling from L.B.Nagar to Dilsukhnagar by Bike on 25-08-2024. If found, please send it to above Address, **+919505685649.** [TT-PAR]

I, SHAWN MARK ANTHONIO WESLEY S/o. LATE JOE WESLEY R/o. H.No. 12-7-2, Block B, Flat No. 101, Indira Apartments, New Mettuguda, Sec-bad -500 017, TS, I have lost the following documents: A) Link Document number 1777/2017, in the name of JOE WESLEY and another. B) Link Document number 2691/1993 in the name of VENKAT RAMAN. that the original link documents-Sale Deed No. 2691-1993 and Sale Deed No. 1777/2017 are missing I believe these documents were misplaced while I was moving to US from India last 2 years back (2022), if found pls **contact me : 9100765069** [TT-TNK]

Telangana Today
8-2-603/1/7,8,9, Road No 10, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 34
Email: t.todayadvt@gmail.com

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The public in general are hereby informed that one of the partners namely **CHARUMATHY G** has not been responding to any Forms of communication for the past 3 weeks. We advise all to not enter into any dealings or Agreements with her as a representative of **SKINDRELLA ACADEMY LLP.** We hereby declare that **SKINDRELLA ACADEMY LLP** OR any other partners cannot be held responsible for any liabilities incurred in account of any dealings with her in behalf of the firm. We also hereby declare that we initiated the process to close the business.

Sd/- **J. ASHWIN KUMAR,**
Advocate
Chamber: H.No.1-8-549/1, Chikkadpally, Hyderabad - 500020, T.G.
Cell: 8977777721, 9553155512
Email: jyothiashwin@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that my client P Narsimha,S/o. P.Venkat Rao, Aged about 62 years, Occ: Retd. Employee, R/o. H.No. 1-5-274, New Maruthi Nagar, Kothapet, Saroornagar, Ranga Reddy District-500 035, Telangana State Lost the Original Sale Deed Document bearing Document no. 6515 of 1994, Dt. 26-09-1994, Uppal SRO Pertaining to all that the Open Plot No. 142 in Survey No. 238 and 243, admeasuring 200 Sq. yeards or 167 Sq.Mtrs., situated at Bokkoniguda, H/o. Ghatkesar Village, Medical-Malkajgiri District (formerly Ranga Reddy District), bounded by: North: Plot No. 102, South 25' wide Road, East: Plot No. 143, and west: Plot No.141 having purchased the same from Sri. Katta Lachi Reddy and others. it's has been lost/misplaced by my client while he was shifting the house. On behalf of my client, I request the General Public, to handover the said original sale deed either to me or my client if any one found it and I also warn in general that if anybody misuses the said original document, they will be prosecuted /punished under the law of land and my client will not be held responsible for any transactions that possible are done by Miscreant and will not be binding on him.

Sd/- **SREENU SATTU**
Advocate
Office : Flat no. 101, Sai Balaji Castle, Road No.7, New Nagole Colony, Kothapet, Rangareddy district, Hyderabad, Telangana-500035.
Cell No. 9573723823.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are informed that my clients Smt. Todupunoori Prasanna W/o. Todupunoori Satish R/o. H.No.11-8-99/106, Flat No. 305, Parimala Winsome, Narasimhapuri Colony, Saroornagar, Hyderabad, on 03-09-2024 has lost the original sale deed Doc. No. 9929/2017 dated 14.09.2017 registered on the file of SRO, Ibrahimpatnam, R.R. Dist. in respect of undivided share of open land admeasuring 240 Sq.Yds out of Ac.1.25 Gts. in Sy.Nos. 85/A and 85/AA, Adibatla (V), Ibrahimpatnam (M), R.R. Dist., while she was traveling on motor bike from Astalaxmi Temple to Chitanyapuri.

It was not traced out inspite of best efforts put in by my client and it is lost beyond recovery.

If any person traces it he may contact the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. If any transaction is made with the person possessing the lost document, such deal will be void, illegal and my client shall not be responsible and it would not bind my client in any manner.

Sd/-Pannala Mohan Reddy, Advocate
H.No.2-103, Kuntloor, Via Hayathnagar, R.R. Dist – 501505. **Ph: 9849669252**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby Informed that my clients client INDRAPURAM MUTHYAM S/o. INDRAPURAM GANGARAM, resident of MEDCHAL District, and THAMAMPALLY DASHARATH S/o. RAMULU, resident of Medchal, T.S, are the absolute owners and possessors of all that Plot. No. 1/part (South side portion) admesurlng 68.88 sq.yds and 31.11 sq.yds (East side portion) all that 100 sq.yds In Survey No. 1112 part vide by registered Doc. No. 2952/22, registered at S.R.O Medchal Dist, T.S. Plot. No. 44 in Sy.No. 10/63 and 64, admesuring 910 sq.yds, and the said first holder is the General power of attorney holder to all that Plot. No. 67, admesuring 226 sq.yds in Sy.No. 1112 part vide by registered Doc. No. 10565/22 registered at S.R.O. Medchal are all executed WILL DEED Infavour MARURI SIVA REDDY S/o. BIMA LINGAREDDY, resident of H.No. 11-31-490/65, Laxminarayanapuram, Narsaraopet, Guntur, Andra Pradesh, (Aadhar No. 2949 9913 8232) and by said virtue of will deed be declared the said claimant as the absolute owner and possessor to the said landed properties and expired in the year 2024 In ROAD accident. That my client by said virtue of WILL DEED EXECUTED BY THE SAID ABOVE OWNERS declared as next absolute owner and possessor to the said above property. That If any body having any kind of objections REGARDING THE SAID ABOVE LANDED PROPERTY, they should inform to my office and meet me personally with all original documents, otherwise treated as no response from any body and my client will proceed for registration before S.R.O. Medchal to favour interested parties. Hence this public notice.

by
Dt.20-09-2024,
Medchal, T.S.
Sd/- **M.KALIDAS B.COM., LL.B.**
ADVOCATE HIGH COURT & SUPREME COURT
H.No:2-24-9, Hasmathpet, Old Bowenpally, Secunderabad,T.S. **Cell: 7730857573**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby informed that my client by name **Smt GITHA RAJASWAMINATHAN, W/o. NATARAJAN RAJASWAMINATHAN** aged about 56 yrs, Occ: LIC Employee R/o. Flat No.G7, C Block, Hema Durga Towers, Miyapur, Hyderabad-500049, Telangana state.

That my client's brother **Mr. SRIDHAR RAMAMURTHY IYER, S/o. RAMAMURTHY VENKATARAMAN SALIAMANGALAM** who was resident of Flat No. G7, C Block, Hema Durga Towers, Miyapur, Hyderabad-500049, Telangana state who was expired on 04-08-2024 and his wife by name **Smt SREEVIDYA SRIDHAR** was also expired on 16-05-2022. He was the absolute owner and peaceful possessor of the Flat No. 11, Third Floor, Sriniwas, situated at land bearing CTS No.5743/11, Final Plot No.353/11 of the Town Planning scheme No.III of Ghatkopar, Village Ghatkopar-Kirol, Ratilal Bechardas Mehta Road (60 feet Road) Ghatkopar (East) Mumbai- 400077 through his mother Shyamala Rammurthy who purchased shares from Balaji Prasad Cooperative Housing Society, Mumbai by share certificates No.34 for 24 shares numbered from 553 to 576 dated 21-09-1970, 52 for 3 shares numbered from 1069 to 1071 dated 01-03-1971 & 11 for 5 shares numbered from 51 to 55 dated 01-09-1970. Thereafter **Mr. SRIDHAR RAMAMURTHY IYER** became the absolute owner and possessor of the above said flat by virtue of transfer of shares in his name after the death of Shyamala Ramamurthy. The said **Mr. SRIDHAR RAMAMURTHY IYER** expired on 04-08-2024 and during his life time he executed a will deed dated 23-12-2022 in favour of my client. By virtue of the said will deed dated 23-12-2022 executed by Late **Mr. SRIDHAR RAMAMURTHY IYER.** My client became the absolute owner and possessor of the above said property except her, there are no legal heirs of the deceased Late **Mr. SRIDHAR RAMAMURTHY IYER.** All persons are hereby informed that my client is applying for transfer of shares in her name to Balaji Prasad Cooperative Housing Society, Mumbai. If anyone is having any objection with regard to the above said property, kindly raise your objection with the undersigned within 15 days of this public notice. After 15 days of this public notice she will be treated that she is absolute owner and possessor of the above said residential property and no objection will be entertained.

Sd/- **Bhanoji Ramars**
Advocate
Plot No. 29 & 30 Sy.No.78, Opp: Prajay Apts Gokul Plots, Hyderabad-85.
Cell No.: 9948664579, 7989240865

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby informed that Mr. Kummari Prakash Raj S/o. Mr. K. Mallaiah is proposing to mortgage the below mentioned property in favor of my client M/s. Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. having its office at Somajiguda, Hyderabad in order to avail a loan facility from my client. That the said mortgagor has represented that, he had lost the original link document No. 20357/2018 dated 01.06.2018 executed in favour of Mrs. K. Sreelatha W/o. Mr. K. Kumar. Further he represents that there are no pending suits/ cases or any other third party claims/disputes whatsoever in respect of the subject property. This notice is caused calling for any claims, objections whatsoever. In the event of any such claim/objection etc. they may contact the undersigned in the below mentioned address with all relevant documents within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. In case, no objections are received, my client will proceed further and accept the mortgage. The claims thereafter if any shall not be entertained.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that the Plot of land admeasuring 252.0 Sq. Yards or 210.67 Sq. Mtrs in Sy. No. 15I/ Ka2, situated at Indrakaran Village & Gram Panchayath, Kandi Mandal, Sangareddy District and bounded by: North 21' wide road South 21' wide road East: House of Y. Santhosa West : Land of Y. Radhamma

Sd/- **K. RAJA GOPAL REDDY**
& Associate Advocates,
Flat No. 105, Sai Swaroop Apartments, Lane beside to Hotel Central Park Hyderaguda, Hyderabad -29.
Ph: 040-23210728, 9866313940

Flood relief insufficient, Harish to CM

Says lack of proactive response has eroded public trust in Congress government

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Emphasising the need for timely and adequate relief to flood victims, BRS leader T Harish Rao on Saturday wrote to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy calling for immediate and comprehensive action to address the devastating impact of recent heavy rains and floods across the State.

The floods have affected districts such as Khammam, Mahabubabad, Suryapet and Warangal, leaving entire colonies submerged and bringing daily life to a standstill. Quoting official reports, he said the calamity had resulted in the tragic loss of 33 lives, property damage was estimated at Rs 5,438 crore and the destruction of crops was across more than 4.25 lakh acres. However, the actual damage was believed to be far greater, with many unaccounted deaths, losses and crop destruction. The flood-affected regions remain devastated, with homes filled with mud, fields buried under sand, and roads washed away.

Harish Rao highlighted the distressing situation in Khammam, where despite nine MLAs from the ruling party representing the people, not a single helicopter was deployed to rescue stranded citizens. This lack of proactive response had eroded public trust in the government's ability to handle crises.

> **Rs 18k to those whose houses collapsed is mere token that hardly addresses their suffering**
>
> — **T HARISH RAO,** BRS leader

The letter criticised the government's inconsistent and insufficient approach to compensation, which only intensified the pain and anger of the affected people. Initially, an immediate relief of Rs 10,000 was announced, with a promise of additional aid based on the extent of the damage. However, this amount was later capped at Rs.16,500, which was grossly inadequate for families who lost their homes, belongings and livelihoods. Offering just Rs 18,000 to those whose houses collapsed was a mere token that hardly addressed their immense suffering, he said.

In Khammam, 15,096 people were identified to receive Rs.6,500, but only 146 were considered eligible for Rs.18,000. Such selective and arbitrary distribution of aid was not only unfair but also an insult to those who endured immense losses. Small traders who lost their entire stock due to the floods were struggling with debt, and the limited assistance being offered would do little to help them rebuild their lives, Harish Rao said, also expressing alarm that not a single rupee was released as compensation for farmers who lost their crops.

The proposed Rs 10,000 per acre was nowhere near sufficient to cover their losses. He reminded the Chief Minister that as an opposition leader, Revanth Reddy himself had demanded Rs.25,000 per acre for crop damages. Now, as the leader in power, the reduction of this figure had left farmers feeling utterly betrayed.

Aid elusive for many

Despite 20 days having passed since the floodwaters receded, many victims were yet to receive any compensation, he said, urging the Chief Minister to take immediate and comprehensive action.

In Brief

HYDERABAD

Rains hit power infra

The Greater Hyderabad area on Friday received heavy rainfall and strong winds causing power outages in various areas of the city. Due to heavy rains, at many places the branches of trees fell over the electric infrastructure damaging it and causing power outages for over two to three hours. According to Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL) officials, as many as 19 feeders broke down due to trees falling on power poles leading to failure of insulators in Banjara Hills, Bairamalguda, Manikonda, Bandla Guda, Kismatpur, Shankar Math, Tarnaka and other areas.

HYDERABAD

SBI donates Rs 51 lakh

State Bank of India Chairman CS Setty visited Devnar Foundation - an NGO for the blind and, supported it through a donation of Rs 51 lakh. The donation is to be used for installation of fire fighting system and rooftop solar system. Reiterating the bank's commitment towards protection of 'Mother Nature', the SBI inaugurated a tree plantation drive – 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam'. The SBI ladies club has also donated essential items to Sai Seva Sangh. Setty reiterated SBI's vision to lead India and the world in climate finance with a pathway to net zero (SCOPE 1, 2 & 3) for the bank by 2055.

HYDERABAD

Demand for power peaks

The Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TGSPDCL) witnessed an all-time high power demand of 9910 MW at 10:35 am on Friday. According to officials, last year's peak demand was recorded at 9862 MW on September 20. This week's average power demand stood at 9317 MW, compared to 9138 MW last year. The average consumption increased to 190.29 million units from 182.11 million units, the officials added. Chairman and Managing Director Musharraf Ali Faruqui stated that the demand might exceed 10,000 MW this season.

Weekend Getaway

Tourists enjoy kayaking at the Kotpally reservoir near Anantagiri Hills in Vikarabad district on Saturday.

BRS leaders boycott PAC meeting

Says appointment of Arekapudi as panel chief 'undemocratic'

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

MLC Ramana calls on govt to review the appointment, urging that the choice should reflect the preference of Leader of the Opposition K Chandrashekhar Rao

Protesting the appointment of turncoat MLA Arekapudi Gandhi as the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), BRS members boycotted the meeting held in the Assembly Committee Hall on Saturday.

BRS MLA Vemula Prashanth Reddy criticised the government for appointing Gandhi in violation of established norms. Pointing out that Gandhi had defected from BRS to Congress, he described the appointment as undemocratic and voiced his protest by boycotting the meeting. He emphasised that the Leader of the Opposition was not consulted during the selection process, calling it a precedent set by the Congress government that undermines democratic norms.

"The PAC is the most important committee dealing with financial matters in the State Legislature. Traditionally, the post of Chairman is given to the main opposition, and this should be respected," Reddy stated. The PAC consists of nine members elected based on party strengths, with the chairman's position typically reserved for the opposition.

Members from different parties including Prashanth Reddy, Gangula Kamalakar, Ravuri Prakash Reddy, Chikudu Vamshikrishna, Yennam Srinivas Reddy, Ram Rao Pawar, Ahmed Bin Abdullah Balala, Kunanneni Sambasiva Rao, MLCs Jeevan Reddy, Bhanu Prasad Rao, L Ramana, and Satyavathi Rathore are part of the committee.

Speaking to the media, BRS leader and MLC L Ramana called on the government to review the appointment of the PAC chairman, urging that the choice should reflect the preference of BRS chief and Leader of the Opposition K Chandrashekhar Rao. Ramana criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for welcoming the defected BRS MLA into Congress and then denying his induction into the party. He lamented that the Speaker remained silent on the issue. He called it a "dark day in the history of democracy."

"The appointment of the PAC chairman should honour legislative traditions and the opposition's recommendations," Ramana stated.

Yechury a true son of Hyderabad, says KTR

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

In a heartfelt address at the memorial meeting for CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Saturday emphasised the deep kinship they shared as "sons of people's struggles".

Rama Rao highlighted Yechury's unwavering commitment to his ideology, noting that he remained a staunch Communist until his last breath.

"Yechury was a true son of Hyderabad," Rama Rao remarked. "He studied at All Saints school and I was a student of the nearby Grammar School. He graduated from Nizam College, just as I did in subsequent years. Yechury was a voice that questioned for the sake of the poor, a leader with great grace," he said.

Rama Rao quoted Yechury, saying, "When democracy is threatened, even silence is considered complicity."

"If I ever feel lost in the battle, I look to Sitaram Yechury for inspiration," he added.

The memorial meeting was a poignant reminder of Yechury's enduring legacy and his relentless fight for the underprivileged. Former Chief secretary Mohan Kanda, CPI(M) politburo member BV Raghavulu and CPI(M) State secretary Tammineni Veerabhadram were among those who spoke.

BRS working president KT Rama Rao paying tributes to CPM leader Sitaram Yechury in Hyderabad.

Revanth slams BJP's ONOE strategy

HYDERABAD: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday said in the guise of the 'One Nation One Election' move, the BJP was hatching a conspiracy to exert its domination in the country. It was very sad that a veteran and experienced leader like Sitaram Yechury was not among us to give a direction to the country in these critical times, he said during a memorial meeting of the CPM national leader here on Saturday.

Yechury adhered to his party ideology till his last breath. The Left party leader fought for the cause of poor all through his life. His family members' decision to donate the mortal remains to a hospital was highly commendable, the Chief Minister said. "Yechury played an active role in supporting important Bills for the welfare of poor during the UPA rule. AICC leader Rahul Gandhi considered Yechury as his mentor," Revanth said.

Drawing inspiration from Yechury, a fight had to be put up against the One Nation One Election move, he said.

BRS alleges conspiracy against State-owned Vijaya Dairy

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Alleging a major conspiracy to divert dairy farmers from the State-owned Vijaya Dairy to Heritage, which is planning to invest Rs 204 crore in Telangana, BRS leader and former Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy feared that it might spell doom for the dairy industry in the State.

Addressing a news conference at Telangana Bhavan on Saturday, Reddy, along with other BRS leaders, highlighted the mounting unpaid dues to dairy farmers by Vijaya Dairy over the last three months. Reddy pointed out that dairy farmers were protesting due to the delayed payments, yet no Minister had addressed their concerns. He questioned how Vijaya Dairy, which was profitable during the BRS regime, was now struggling to sustain itself.

"The government, which has failed to fully implement the crop loan waiver and Rythu Bandhu schemes, is now set to let down farmers with inadequate crop insurance policies," Reddy said, urging the government and the Agriculture Minister to study global policies and develop a robust crop insurance policy, noting that insurance companies rarely benefit farmers at a loss.Reddy criticized the current government for not compensating farmers for crop losses, despite being in power for nine months. He accused the government of coming to power with false promises and damaging the image of Hyderabad and Telangana with misleading initiatives like HYDRAA.

He also questioned why the pension scheme of Rs 4,000 per month, implemented in neighbouring States, was not being applied in Telangana. Former MP Badugula Lingaya Yadav and others were present.

Vijaya Dairy offers to supply milk products to TTD

HYDERABAD: Amid the Tirupati laddu row, a senior Telangana official on Saturday said the State government's Vijaya Dairy is ready to supply pure and quality milk products to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). In a letter to TTD Executive Officer J Shyamala Rao, Telangana Animal Husbandry Department's Principal Secretary Sabyasachi Ghosh said the Telangana Vijaya Dairy was known for supplying quality products to consumers. He conveyed the Telangana Vijaya Dairy's readiness to meet the TTD's requirements for high quality ghee and other milk products, a State government release said. Vijaya Dairy would be fully transparent with regard to the quality, purity and price since it is a government firm, the official said. In the letter, the official urged the TTD EO to provide an opportunity to serve the temple and the devotees, the release added. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) manages the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple. PTI

No resident tigers spotted in Kawal Reserve so far, exposes multiple issues

S SANDEEP KUMAR
HYDERABAD

Even as the tiger numbers in the Amrabad Tiger Reserve (ATR) are on the rise, there have been hardly any resident tigers found in the Kawal Tiger Reserve (KTR), exposing multiple issues that need to be addressed by the Forest Department.

In the recently concluded annual Phase IV monitoring, ATR officials documented 33 individual tigers, which was the highest in the State. Among these, many were breeding tigers, which would further increase the numbers in the reserve in the next few years. Over 170 trackers worked hard from December 12, 2023 to May 2, 2024 as part of the monitoring exercise in ATR.

On the contrary, the Kawal Reserve is behind the schedule and is expected to complete the exercise only by November, a senior official said.

The worrying factor was that during the exercise so far, officials could not find any resident tigers. All through the exercise, images of leopards, antelopes and other wild animals were recorded, but of no tiger, much to the disappointment of trackers, the official said. Like ATR, Kawal is also spread over a vast area and covers nearly 2000 square km.

The Kawal Tiger Reserve is expected to complete the monitoring exercise by November.

Still a few areas were to be covered in the Phase IV monitoring and the department was working to install more camera traps in these areas. Over 80 camera traps were used so far and 20 more were being arranged to be installed in different areas as part of the exercise.

On the reasons behind no resident tigers being found in Kawal, the official said tigers usually migrate into the reserve from Maharashtra through Asifabad. However, they do not make Kawal their home and keep moving out, he said. The Sirpur-Kaghaznagar belt is one of the conduits for the tigers to move into Kawal from Tadoba in the neighbouring State but has fragmented forest patches. Earlier this year, there were quite a few incidents of tigers found dead in Darigaon village in the Kaghaznagar forest division. This apart, the prey base in Kawal is not high as compared with ATR for the tigers to stay put in the reserve. Though the Forest department had relocated two villages from the core area of the reserve, development of grasslands in vast areas was another challenge. Local shepherds and farmers leave their cattle to graze in the reserve areas, affecting the prey base.

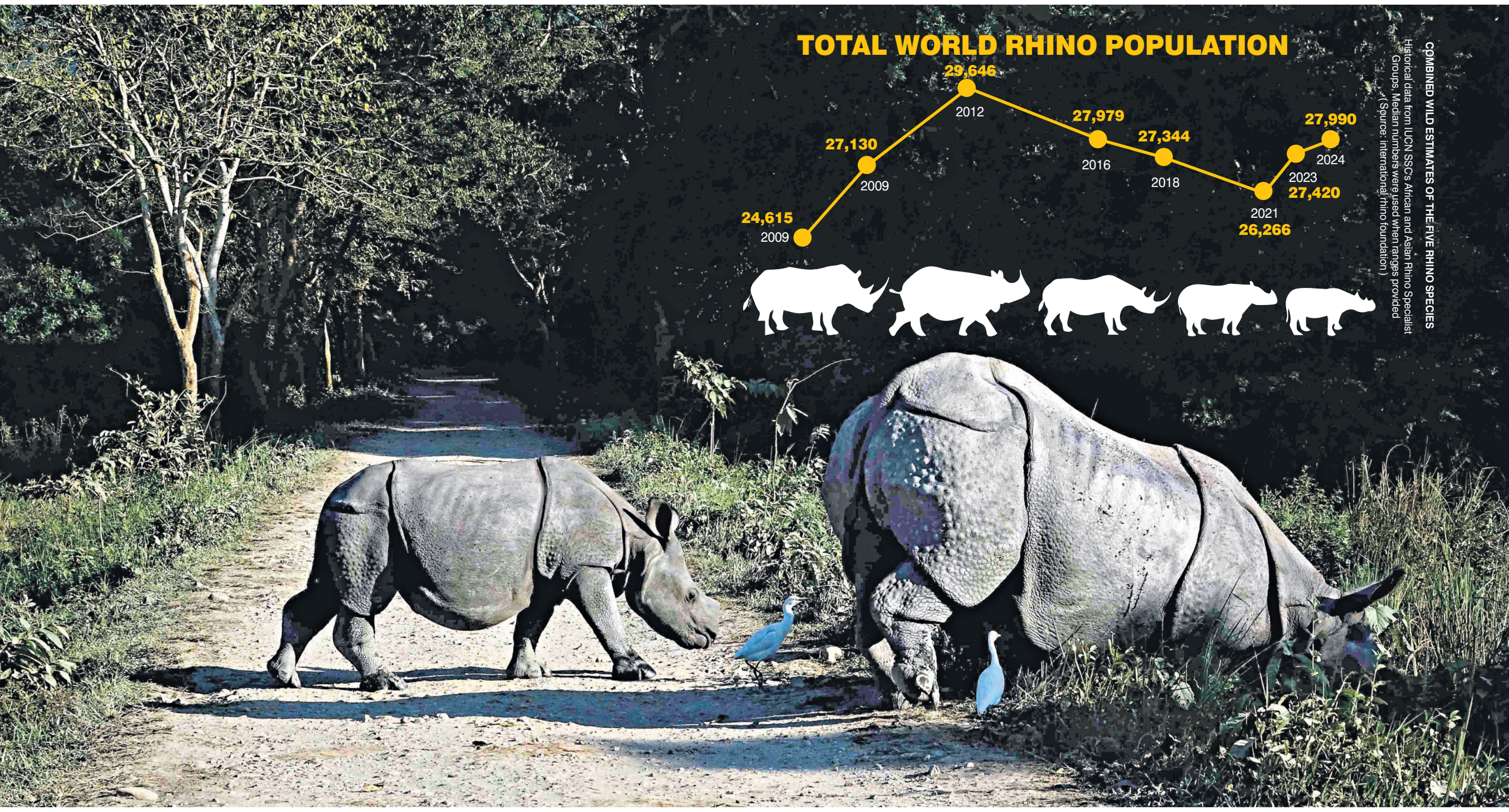
In 2022, the Management Effective Evaluation of the National Tiger Conservation Authority had directed the State Forest department to constitute Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) in both ATR and Kawal.

It wanted 112 staff to be deployed in each unit as was being done in Maharashtra, but no measures were taken in this regard so far. The NTCA had also wanted the officials to explore possibility of increasing the number of base camps in the two tiger reserves in view of the vast areas covered by the two reserves. This apart, recommendations were made to explore ways and means for increasing funds under Tiger Conservation Foundation (TCF) by way of revenue from ecotourism activities and receiving support from corporates and banks under Corporate Social Responsibility.

Rendezvous with Rhinos

AS WE CELEBRATE WORLD RHINO DAY, HERE'S THE STORY OF THE INDIAN RHINOCEROS — OF RESILIENCE, THREATENED SURVIVAL AND REMARKABLE CONSERVATION EFFORTS

N SHIVA KUMAR



A young rhino follows its mother in the hinterlands of Kaziranga National Park. — N SHIVA KUMAR

The two-man filmmaking team had one aim, to capture close-up footage of a wild pachyderm in its natural habitat. After spotting a large rhinoceros in the grasslands, they carefully inched closer, stepping out of their vehicle and creeping towards the massive creature. The mighty rhinoceros fixed its gaze on them, and tension filled the air as the filmmakers, ignoring a guard's warnings, edged nearer. The armed guard had repeatedly urged them not to approach the animal closer but the determined cinematographers held their ground, as did the enormous, one-horned beast. In a sudden burst of fury, the rhinoceros charged with a ferocity that left the film crew stunned. Reacting quickly, the guard fired a warning shot into the air, hoping to halt the animal's advance.

Chaos erupted as the men fled but fate dealt a cruel blow when the guard stumbled and fell on the uneven ground. In a flash, the enraged rhinoceros was upon him, its sharp incisors tearing across his chest, leaving him severely injured. After seven months of recovery and numerous stitches and hitches, the brave guard returned to duty, safeguarding the swarms of tourists visiting Assam's famed Kaziranga National Park (KNP). Talking to the guard, after he was cured, I was flabbergasted to see his torso, but he had no remorse and said, "after all the rhino was in his domain and we were trespassing."

My first encounter with a rhinoceros was 27 years ago at Kaziranga. Nevertheless, my second sighting, in Pobitora, a tiny sanctuary also in Assam, home to the highest density of one-horned rhinoceros, was unforgettable. Viewing these magnificent creatures from the back of an elephant, I felt as though I was witnessing a relic from the age of dinosaurs — creatures that defied extinction.

Its robust body, armoured appearance and characteristic single horn make it an unmistakable figure in the wild. But then, since India's independence in 1947, the story of the Indian rhinoceros has been one of resilience, threatened survival and remarkable conservation efforts. The path toward protecting this species reflects both the challenges and achievements in wildlife conservation in India, yet there is much more to be achieved.

Declining Population

At the time of independence, their population had drastically dwindled due to a combination of factors, including habitat loss, floods, poaching and human-wildlife conflict. Historically, the Indian rhinoceros once roamed across a vast range that extended from the foothills of the Himalayas in northern India and Nepal to northeastern India and the plains of Bhutan.

By the mid-20th century, the rhino population became severely fragmented, confined to the swampy grasslands of Assam and parts of Nepal. Deforestation and the conversion of these fertile lands into agricultural areas pushed the species to the brink. Poaching for the horn, which has immense value in traditional medicine, particularly in China and Southeast Asia, further aggravated the situation.

Early Conservation Efforts

In the years following independence, India faced numerous challenges, including vast economic development and rebuilding the nation. Wildlife conservation was not a top priority in these formative years. However, by the 1950s and 1960s, conservationists began to realise the perilous situation of India's wildlife, including the rhino. The sprawling Kaziranga National Park became a focal point of these early efforts for its rich biodiversity.

Kaziranga was established as a reserve forest in 1905 by Mary Curzon, the wife of then Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon, but it wasn't until 1950 that it officially gained the status of a wildlife sanctuary and graduated to National Park. The protection offered by this sanctuary was limited in scope at the time, with few resources allocated for wildlife protection, but it was a beginning. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, as awareness of conservation issues grew globally, India's commitment to preserving the rhino strengthened.

Landmark in Conservation

In the late 20th century, political unrest in Assam endangered the rhinoceros, a symbol of regional pride. Though Kaziranga was a sanctuary for rhinos, increased poaching and habitat threats led to conservation concerns. Their population had already dwindled, and by 1983, poaching had claimed over 90 rhinos. This situation distressed former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who, despite local opposition, supported a translocation effort to protect the species. A strong decision to translocate rhinos from Assam to the Dudhwa National Park in Uttar Pradesh took concrete shape. Dudhwa grasslands resembled Assam's, making it an ideal location. In 1984, five rhinos were airlifted in a specially commissioned Russian cargo plane, accompanied by environmentalists.

Many in Assam feared that relocating rhinos would diminish their cultural significance and weaken the State's claim to the species. Despite these objections, Indira Gandhi's support played a pivotal role in this historic conservation effort, ensuring the rhinos' survival beyond Assam while fostering a national approach to protecting endangered species. This airlift remains a significant moment in both Assam's political history and India's conservation movement.

Bold, informed leadership, sensitive to local communities, is crucial for successful conservation. Political backing needs to be sustained over a long period of time as conservation needs constant nurturing for it to succeed and endure in a human-dominated world. The translocation of rhinos from Assam to Dudhwa was exemplary, says Ravi Chellam, CEO, Metastring Foundation, and Coordinator, Biodiversity Collaborative based in Bengaluru. In 2012, I visited Dudhwa and ventured on an elephant safari to see the viable and thriving population of rhinos. These were from the same stock that was translocated in 1984, nearly 30 years ago from the hinterlands of Assam.

One of the key features of the one-horned rhino's habitat is its transboundary nature. The rhino's range extends beyond India into Nepal and Bhutan. Recognising the importance of collaboration, India and Nepal have worked together on various rhino conservation initiatives. Joint anti-poaching efforts and information-sharing between the two countries have been instrumental in reducing cross-border poaching networks.

Rewilding Habitats

Interestingly, the International Rhino Foundation (IRF) has a word of caution. Logistically, rhino populations in many areas are extremely difficult to count. Rhinos are often solitary and difficult to spot, especially in dense vegetation. Their shy behaviour makes it hard to track them consistently, leading to doubtful population counts. Whether they are roaming over vast landscapes in Africa or navigating through dense jungles in India, surveying these areas is difficult, requiring significant resources such as aerial surveillance, night cameras and tracking teams. Additionally, the animal can disperse over borders between countries, risking either double counting or individuals being missed entirely.

Governmental wildlife agencies may not have sufficient resources to invest in frequent and comprehensive population assessments. Different countries use various techniques tailored to their species and unique habitats. In India and Nepal, rhinos are counted every 3-4 years by large teams of people riding elephants to spot the animal while staying safe from them and other wildlife. Some use camera traps to identify and estimate rhino populations. And in others, helicopters and aerial teams are used to count them over vast landscapes. No method for counting rhinos is 100% accurate every time, but scientists make their estimates with the best available data.

Conservation Challenges

While there has been remarkable progress in protecting the Indian rhino, conservationists continue to face several challenges. Climate change poses a long-term threat, particularly with increased flooding in Brahmaputra valley, which can destroy their habitats and increase mortality. Additionally, human population growth and expanding agriculture encroach on protected areas, increasing human-wildlife conflict. "The floods are a double-edged sword," says BC Choudhry, a veteran wildlife consultant and an alumni of Wildlife Institute of India.

"On one hand, they bring life-sustaining silt, rejuvenating the region's flora and fauna. On the other, the floodwater forces the animal to flee to limited and scattered high grounds stretched over a vast area. It's often difficult to monitor, exposing the animals to both anthropogenic and natural dangers such as poaching and drowning," he says.

Future Hopeful

Despite the challenges, the future of the one-horned rhino in India remains hopeful. The success of Project Rhino, the continued growth of the rhino population in Kaziranga, and the re-establishment of rhinos in Dudhwa and Manas National Park (in Assam) are all testament to the resilience of the species and the dedication of conservationists. NGOs, local communities, international conservation organisations and corporate houses have shown an unwavering commitment to the survival of the species.

Wildlife authorities have continuously adapted their strategies to combat the persistent threat of poaching. Today, Kaziranga and other rhino reserves like Pobitora, Orang, Manas, Jaldapara, Gorumara and Dudhwa use modern technology, including drones, GPS and camera traps to detect poaching activities. Additionally, the establishment of fast-response anti-poaching teams has significantly reduced the number of rustling incidents in recent years.

With ongoing efforts, including the expansion of protected areas, stricter anti-poaching measures and habitat restoration, the Indian rhino is on a path to steady recovery.

(The author is an independent journalist and documentary wildlife photographer)

KAZIRANGA: A SUCCESS STORY

The Kaziranga National Park has boosted its rhino population from a few dozen in the mid-20th century to over 2,500 today. Its success has inspired similar initiatives across India, with community-based tourism providing both conservation funding and local economic benefits. Similar efforts can be seen in other national parks across India. The integration of community-based tourism has further helped provide an economic incentive for the local population to protect the rhino. Wildlife tourism brings much-needed revenue to the region enriching the needy.

ROBUST BODY, ARMOURED APPEARANCE AND CHARACTERISTIC SINGLE HORN MAKE THE INDIAN RHINO AN UNMISTAKABLE FIGURE IN THE WILD

RHINOS ARE OFTEN SOLITARY AND THEIR SHY BEHAVIOUR MAKES IT HARD TO TRACK THEM CONSISTENTLY, LEADING TO DOUBTFUL POPULATION COUNTS

A KEY FEATURE OF ONE-HORNED RHINO'S HABITAT IS ITS TRANSBOUNDARY NATURE — ITS RANGE EXTENDS BEYOND INDIA INTO NEPAL AND BHUTAN

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In Brief

KOLKATA

Junior docs resume work

Normalcy has been restored at emergency departments of different medical colleges and hospitals, including RG Kar Medical College & Hospital in Kolkata, as protesting junior doctors resumed work on Saturday. Honouring their commitment, the junior doctors who had been protesting for over a month over the rape and murder of a junior doctor of RG Kar, resumed their duties on Saturday morning. But, as announced by them on Friday, while lifting their demonstration, the junior doctors resumed work only at the emergency departments of the medical colleges and temporary medical camps opened in flood-affected districts of the State. IANS

KOCHI

CPI(M) leader no more

Veteran CPI(M) leader MM Lawrence, who was among the leaders involved in the attack on a police station at Edappally here during the Communist uprising in Kerala in 1950, died on Saturday, party sources said. He was 95. His death occurred at a private hospital where he had been receiving treatment for age-related ailments for about a month. A former Lok Sabha member representing the Idukki seat, Lawrence served in various capacities, including as a member of the CPI(M) Central Committee, a member of the State Secretariat, State general secretary of CITU and convener of the Left Democratic Front. PTI

PURI

Survey begins

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on Saturday afternoon began the second round of technical survey of the Ratna Bhandar of Puri's Jagannath temple, officials said. The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) barred devotees from having a 'darshan' of the sibling deities from 1 pm to 6 pm during the three-day survey of the treasury. The main gates of the temple will be closed for devotees during the survey. SJTA chief administrator Arabinda Padhee sought cooperation from devotees in this matter. The first round of the survey was held on September 18, when a team conducted inspection. PTI

Woman chopped into 30 pieces, stuffed in fridge

BENGALURU

A 29-year-old woman's dismembered body was found in a house in Malleswaram here, police sources said on Saturday. According to police, Mahalakshmi's body, cut into over 30 pieces, was stuffed in a refrigerator.

Senior police officers reached the spot and barricaded the road leading to the building where the body was found in a single bedroom house, where the victim was staying alone.

Police suspect it to be a case of murder, which took place about a week ago. An investigation has been launched into the case.

As per preliminary investigation, the victim was aged 26 and hailed from West Bengal or Chhattisgarh. The incident came to light when neighbours noticed a foul smell emanating from the victim's house for two days and informed her relatives.

Mahalakshmi's mother and sister came to her house on Saturday, entered it to come across the shocking scene, and raised an alarm.

A police team, which arrived at the scene, was shocked to see the body parts of the victims stuffed into the 165-litre fridge. Though the refrigerator was operational, the body had been infested by maggots, which were moving in and out. Additional Commissioner of Police (West Zone) N Satheesh Kumar said, "A woman's body was found chopped into pieces and stored in a fridge at a house within the Vyalikaval police station limits. It appeared to have been done four-five days ago."

He said the dog squad and forensic experts, too, visited the spot and started the investigation. "The body has been identified. The probe is going on. We will give more information after the investigation. She was settled in Karnataka but is originally from another State," Kumar told reporters.

It is learnt that the woman was living separately from her husband. While Mahalakshmi lived in Malleswaram and was working in a mall, her husband worked in a hermitage away from the city. After learning about the incident, he, too, came to the spot.

Stark reminder of Shraddha Walker case

The incident was a stark reminder of the brutal murder of Shraddha Walker by her live-in partner Aftab Poonawalla on May 18, 2022 at Mehrauli in Delhi. Twenty-eight-year-old Poonawala allegedly strangled Walkar and sawed her body into 35 pieces, which he kept in a 300-litre fridge for almost three weeks at his residence before dumping them across the city. PTI

Will respond to bullets with *goli* not *boli*: Shah

Home Minister says days of cross-border firing are gone, Pak afraid of Modi

IANS
JAMMU

Union Home Minister, Amit Shah said on Saturday that if bullets are fired from across the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), those would be responded to by bullets not dialogue.

Addressing a mammoth BJP campaign rally in Mendhar area of Poonch district on Saturday, Shah said, "The days of cross-border firing are over. Pakistan is now afraid of PM Modi. There were times when the people in power in J&K were afraid of Pakistan. The situation has completely changed. If bullets are fired from across the LoC, we will response with bullets not with boli (talks)."

Shah said he had come to Mendhar to appeal for the victory of the BJP candidate, Murtaza Khan. "I live in Gujarat and I could never think that I could address people in Mendhar just 2 km away from the LoC. Our Gujjar, Bakarwal and Pahari brothers have always stood as soldiers of the country whenever there was a war with Pakistan after 1947. Today, I want to tell you from the mountains of Mendhar that the entire country is proud of you. I appeal to you to join hands with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to protect the country."

Home Minister Amit Shah during a public meeting ahead of the J&K Assembly elections, in Mendhar of Poonch. — Photo: PTI

"This election will end the monopoly of three families of Abdullahs, Muftis and Gandhis. They have stopped democracy from taking root in J&K. If PM Modi had not come to power in 2014, there would be no Panchayat, BDC and DDC elections here. It is because of Narendra Modi and Murtaza bhai that today 30,000 youth from here are working in different parts of the country," Shah said.

"In the days of Farooq Abdullah and the Mufti family, 40,000 innocent people were killed. Prime Minister Modi decided to put an end to terrorism. In place of stones, we have given laptops in the hands of the youth. Omar Abdullah now threatens that terrorism will come back. I want to tell him that despite his patronage, our government is in power in the country and Modiji is the PM, we will never allow terrorism to re-emerge in the Valley," the Home Minister said.

"I appeal to you to end the monopoly of these three families. Did Farooq Abdullah protect you in the 1990s? He instead went to London for a summer holiday. We have increased facilities for the common man. We gave Rs 5 lakh free healthcare, did they do it in 70 years? Modi will give you Rs 10 lakh healthcare insurance in the future. Modiji has proposed in the Cabinet recently that instead of making macadamised roads under the PMGSY for villages with a population of 500, we should have a macadamised road for every village with a population of 50 people. This will benefit mountainous areas. OBCs, Gujjars, Bakarwals and also Paharis brothers," he said.

"Farooq's party opposed reservation to Paharis by telling Gujjars and Bakarwals that Paharis would cut into their reservation quota. We proved them wrong. Before reservations, our Gujjar/Bakarwal brothers would look for a peon's job for their children. With reservations, your children can now become Collectors and District SPs. They can get admission in medical and engineering colleges on reservation," the Union Home Minister said.

Kharge slams BJP for hate remarks

SRINAGAR: Slamming the BJP, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday wondered why no action had been taken by the party against a leader, who made hateful remarks about Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

Recently, Delhi BJP leader Tarvinder Singh Marwah, in a video, was purportedly heard saying that Rahul Gandhi would meet the same fate as his grandmother — late former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Marwah was apparently upset over the remarks made by the Congress MP on reservations which made him issue what the Congress dubbed, an open threat. Addressing a press conference here, Kharge said: "Their (BJP) leaders hurl abuses at the Gandhi family. Why is no action taken against them?" IANS

SIT to probe cases against K'taka BJP MLA Munirathna

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government on Saturday constituted a Special Investigation Team headed by Additional Director General of Police (CID) BK Singh to probe three criminal cases registered against BJP MLA Munirathna, including a casteist slur and a rape case.

The announcement came after a court remanded Munirathna to 14 days' judicial custody in an alleged rape case earlier in the day. The investigation team also comprises three IPS officers, Labhu Ram, Soumyalatha SK and CA Simon. The team has been asked to probe not only the three cases against him but also all the cases registered against the MLA and his aides in various police stations across the State. Munirathna was arrested a week ago in connection with two FIRs being lodged against him for alleged harassment, threats and casteist abuse.

Soon after he was released on bail, he was arrested in a rape case and was remanded to judicial custody on Saturday. The cases against the Rajarajeshwarinagar MLA were filed at Vyalikaval police station on September 13.

In the first FIR filed based on a complaint by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike contractor Cheluvaraju, the MLA is accused of demanding Rs 30 lakh as a bribe and threatening to terminate his contract if he did not pay the money. PTI

BJP desperate to silence me: Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI

Accusing the BJP of spreading lies about his recent remarks in the US, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Saturday asked Sikhs whether there was anything wrong in what he had said and if India shouldn't be a country where every Indian could practise their religion without fear.

He said the BJP was desperate to silence him because they could not stand the truth. PTI

TEST OF ENDURANCE

Army personnel during a demonstration of their ability to carry out operations in high-altitude areas, in Ladakh. — Photo: PTI

'Laddu row after TTD stopped using Nandini ghee'

Pralhad Joshi says Centre will take desecration of Tirupati *prasadam* to logical end

HUBBALLI

Union Minister for Food and Consumer Affairs Pralhad Joshi on Saturday said the Centre has taken the issue of desecration of famous Tirupati Laddu seriously and will take the matter to its logical end.

The Minister also said the allegations cropped up after the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam stopped using Nandini Ghee of the Karnataka Milk Federation. "We have heard a very serious allegation of adulteration in the auspicious Tirupati Laddu. The previous (AP) government was using Nandini Ghee. Once they stopped using Nandini products, they started procuring ghee from different sources. Since then, these incidents have taken place and the AP Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has released the lab report as well," Joshi, who also holds public distribution portfolio, said.

He said the AP Chief Minister is an important politician of India and a good administrator and there must be facts when he has said so. "Now that the lab report has come out, a detailed investigation has to take place. Whoever has committed wrong should be punished. We will take is seriously and we will take this case to the logical end," Joshi said. "This is a question of the culture and faith of the country. Such betrayal is not good." Meanwhile, former Deputy CM of Karnataka KS Eshwarappa alleged the role of foreign Christian missionaries during the tenure of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. PTI

Amul complaint: X users booked for misinformation

AHMEDABAD: Police on Saturday registered a case against seven users of social media platform X for allegedly spreading misinformation that the "low quality" ghee used for making laddus at the Tirupati temple belonged to the 'Amul' brand, an official said.

A massive political row has erupted after Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu claimed that animal fat was used in making laddus made Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple in Tirupati during the previous government in the State.

Anand-based Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which markets its milk and dairy products under the brand name 'Amul', has denied having supplied ghee (clarified butter) to TTD, which manages the temple.

As per the FIR, X users of seven different handles spread misinformation that ghee with animal fat used for preparing laddus for Tirupati Balaji temple belonged to the 'Amul' brand with the intention of harming the reputation of the GCMMF, the cyber crime police station official said.

These X users spread misinformation that ghee sold under the Amul brand was used to prepare laddus which is then used as 'prasad' (offering) at the temple in Tirupati, thereby damaging the reputation of the co-operative organisation, it said. PTI

Congress slams Pawan

NEW DELHI: Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera took potshots at Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan over his demand for a 'Sanatan Dharma Rakshana Board' and said his old statements on beef are enough to "expose his duplicity on matters of faith". Khera said, "He can implement whatever he wants in his government but he should not create controversies." IANS

Kishan for probe

HYDERABAD: Union Coal Minister and BJP State unit chief G Kishan Reddy, while urging the AP government to conduct a comprehensive probe into the allegations, appealed to political parties and charitable organisations not to sensationalise the issue. "The probe should also include the conspiracy to harm Sanatana Dharma and Hindu religious beliefs," the Union Minister said.

Creating 20 lakh jobs single agenda of NDA govt: Lokesh

VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh on Saturday said creating 20 lakh jobs is the single agenda of the TDP-led NDA government in the State, which was given a massive mandate of 93 per cent seats in the 2024 elections.

Addressing a special plenary session of the CII Southern Regional Council 2024-25 here, he highlighted that creating 20 lakh jobs in five years was one of the six primary promises NDA made in the run-up to the polls. "That is the single agenda (20 lakh jobs) with which your government is going to actually work here in the state of Andhra Pradesh," said Lokesh, adding that the State aspires to become one of the first three states to achieve a GSDP of $1 trillion.

Observing that CII has always played a collaborative role, he said that Andhra Pradesh, which has been a hub for agriculture, MSMEs and other sectors, now aims to move faster in Information Technology. He said the government will receive feedback for Viksit AP. PTI

9 of jeweller family attempt suicide

RAJKOT

Nine members of the Soni family from the Kevdavadi area of Rajkot attempted mass suicide by consuming poison on Saturday.

The family members were rushed to Civil Hospital for emergency treatment. Reports said the family — jewellers by profession — took the extreme step after traders from Mumbai withheld Rs 2.75 crore for 22-carat gold jewellery they had supplied.

Despite repeated follow-ups over the last 11 months, the payment was not made. It is alleged that the traders not only failed to clear the dues but also issued threats to the family.

Police have launched an investigation. IANS

Jagan ignorant of Hindu rituals, traditions: BJP

AMARAVATI: BJP leader L Dinakar on Saturday alleged that YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is ignorant of Hindu rituals, traditions and customs.Dinakar made these comments in the context of Reddy's delayed reaction to allegations that famous Tirupati laddu prasadam was desecrated during the previous YSRCP regime. "Reddy doesn't have the knowledge about systems in the governance and the society other than looting the public exchequer and tarnishing the Hindu rituals, traditions and customs," Dinakar said. The former CM called BJP leaders as those with half knowledge instead of replying to the adulteration. PTI

In Brief

NEW DELHI

RBI Guv calls on President

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das called on President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Saturday. "Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan," the President's office said in a post on X. It also shared a picture of the meeting. PTI

WASHINGTON

OYO buys iconic Motel 6

Budget motel chain Motel 6 is being acquired by the parent company of Oyo. New York-based investment firm Blackstone, which owns Motel 6's parent company G6 Hospitality, said the deal would be an all-cash transaction worth $525 million. The transaction will also include the sale of the Studio 6 motel brand, which caters to customers seeking extended stays. The deal is expected to close by the end of the year. Oyo, which launched in India just over a decade ago, has been expanding its footprint in the US over the past few years. The company says it operates 320 hotels across 35 States and aims to add 250 more. AP

MUMBAI

FIIs infuse Rs 14,064 cr

The foreign institutional investors (FIIs) turned aggressive buyers by infusing Rs 14,064 crore in the cash market as Indian markets remained resilient, data showed on Saturday. Total FII investment till September 20 stood at Rs 33,699 crore, taking the total FII investment in the country to Rs 76,585 crore this year to date, as per NSDL data. Market watchers said that the trend of FII buying is likely to continue in the coming days. Manoj Purohit from BDO India said the US Federal Reserve made the first interest rate cut by a margin of 50 bps. IANS

Navy to bolster combat prowess amid tensions

Reaffirms commitment to 'Aatmanirbharta'

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during bi-annual Naval Commanders' Conference 2024 conducted from September 17 to 20, at Nausena Bhawan in New Delhi. — Photo: PTI

NEW DELHI

Top commanders of the Indian Navy have decided to significantly bolster the force's combat prowess in the Indian Ocean against the backdrop of China's increasing forays into the region and geopolitical power play being witnessed in the Indo-Pacific.

The decision to enhance India's combat capabilities in the maritime sphere following extensive deliberations at a four-day Naval Commanders' Conference that concluded here on Friday, officials said. In his address to the commanders, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi underlined the need to maintain vigil towards ensuring maritime security and coastal defence through close synergy and functional linkages with the Coast Guard and other maritime agencies. The admiral called on commands and staff at the naval headquarters to continue evolving as a well-balanced multi-dimensional seamlessly networked force ready to respond, protect and promote the national maritime interests — "anytime, anywhere, anyhow", according to the Navy.

The Navy Chief highlighted the flux in the contemporary geo-strategic environment as well as evolving tactics in the maritime domain. Enumerating the key focus areas for the force in the short, medium and long term, he reiterated the need to ensure combat readiness of all naval platforms, equipment, weapons and sensors, with a singular focus on "ordnance delivery on target", the Navy said in a readout. The Navy said the conference focused on contemporary security paradigms and critical analysis to further enhance the combat capability of the Navy and synergise operations with the other services.

The commanders also reaffirmed the Navy's steadfast commitment to the national vision of Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance). At present, 64 ships and submarines are under construction in Indian shipyards and orders have been placed for 24 additional platforms.

In his address, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh called upon the commanders to remain prepared to deal with any security challenges considering the volatile global scenario and underlined the need to further boost India's overall naval prowess. PTI

'Qualcomm may acquire rival Intel'

SAN FRANCISCO

Chip giant Qualcomm has reportedly approached rival semiconductor firm Intel about the possibility of acquiring it but has not made any official offer yet.

Multiple reports on Saturday claimed that Qualcomm has been considering a "full takeover" of US semiconductor manufacturer.

A report in The Wall Street Journal first revealed that although a deal is 'far from certain', the two companies have held talks on the subject. Both Qualcomm and Intel declined to comment on the reports.

With a market capitalisation of about $93 billion, Intel has seen its stock nosedive more than 40 per cent over the last year. On the other hand, Qualcomm has witnessed its shares rise 55 per cent, with a market value of $169 billion.

In 2020, Intel lost its big client Apple as the iPhone maker transitioned from Macs to its own silicon chips built on the ARM architecture. Although the US company still dominates the PC market with its chips, the original equipment makers are fast adopting the ARM architecture.

Compared to Intel x86, the ARM architecture is more efficient when it comes to energy consumption and thermals. The New York Times said, "Qualcomm has not yet made an official offer for Intel."

Meanwhile, Intel is laying off over 15,000 employees. Intel CEO Pat Gelsinger said the company would stop all non-essential work. IANS

'Quad to take firm stand on Indo-Pacific'

Leaders to discuss North Korean security challenges, South China Sea: US official

IANS
WASHINGTON

The United States, India, Japan and Australia will issue a joint summit statement that includes "some of the strongest language" on North Korea and the South China Sea on Saturday, a senior US administration official said, in an apparent show of their leaders' unity against security challenges from Pyongyang and Beijing.

The official made the remarks in an online press briefing on Friday, a day before President Joe Biden, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese are set to attend their Quad summit in Wilmington, Delaware, on Saturday.

The fourth in-person Quad summit comes amid growing concerns about North Korea's evolving nuclear and ballistic missile threats, deepening military cooperation between Moscow and Pyongyang and China's growing assertiveness in the South China Sea, reports Yonhap news agency.

"I will say that the Quad agenda always focuses on a wide range of strategic profits in the Indo-Pacific that absolutely includes considerations with respect to the PRC, including on the economic front, in the maritime space and elsewhere," the official said, referring to China by its official name, the People's Republic of China.

'Strongest language'

"But it will also include a focus on the DPRK and several other key considerations as well. I will say that I think you can expect to see in the upcoming joint statement...some of the strongest language that the Quad has ever produced, particularly on the South China Sea and on North Korea," the official added.

DPRK stands for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The joint statement represents a "convergence of views" among the Quad leaders over security challenges in the Indo-Pacific, the official noted.

In a separate press briefing on Thursday, Mira Rapp-Hooper, senior director for East Asia and Oceania at the National Security Council, said that the Quad leaders will discuss the North Korean security challenge as well as the deepening military alignment between the North and Russia.

In Friday's briefing, senior US administration officials said on the occasion of Saturday's summit, the four countries will launch the first-ever Quad Coast Guard exercise and a Quad logistics network that allows the countries' militaries to share cargo space on aircraft and vessels for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions. The officials also highlighted the launch of the "House and Senate Quad Caucuses" in a bipartisan and bicameral support for the Quad platform. On Saturday, the leaders will have the Quad "Cancer Moonshot" event, a signature health security deliverable from the leaders' meeting, the officials said.

The event is an initiative to combat cervical cancer, which officials said is a preventable form of cancer, with vaccination, screening and increased treatment donated by the Quad countries.

Centre notifies Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas rules

NEW DELHI

The government on Saturday notified rules and forms for the Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme 2024 (DTVSV 2024) to resolve pending appeals in the case of income tax disputes.

The scheme, announced in the union Budget to reduce the litigations related with income tax, will come into force with effect from October 1. The DTVSV Scheme provides for lesser settlement amounts for a 'new appellant' in comparison to an 'old appellant', said the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

"The scheme also provides for lesser settlement amounts for taxpayers who file declaration on or before 31.12.2024 in comparison to those who file thereafter," said Ministry of Finance in a statement.

> Scheme provides for lesser settlement amounts for taxpayers who file declaration on or before Dec 31

Four separate forms have been notified by the government: Form for filing declaration and undertaking by the declarant; form for certificate to be issued by designated authority; Form for intimation of payment by the declarant; Order for full and final settlement of tax arrears by designated authority. The Scheme also provides that Form-1 would be filed separately for each dispute, provided that where appellant and the income-tax authority, both have filed an appeal in respect of the same order, single Form-1 shall be filed in such a case.

"The intimation of payment is to be made in Form-3 and is to be furnished to the designated authority along with proof of withdrawal of appeal, objection, application, writ petition, special leave petition, or claim," the ministry noted.

I-T disputes

The rules are in response to FM Nirmala Sitharaman's announcement in the Budget. She had said that for resolution of certain income tax disputes pending in appeal, "I am also proposing Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme, 2024." It has been the endeavour of the Central Board of Direct Taxes to provide expeditious disposal of appeals by appellate authorities under its administrative control. IANS

TRYING TIMES

Commuters wade through a waterlogged area at Santipur, in Nadia district of West Bengal on Saturday. — Photo: PTI

36 Indian startups raise $628 mn in funding in a week

NEW DELHI

The Indian startup ecosystem saw massive funding flow this week at more than $628.24 million raised by 36 startups — a whopping 174.5 per cent surge from last week.

The funding momentum was led by edtech company Physics Wallah (PW) which secured $210 billion in its Series B funding round and took the company's valuation to $2.8 billion. The round was led by Hornbill Capital, with significant participation from Lightspeed Venture Partners, and existing investors GSV and WestBridge.

The week saw 14 growth-stage deals and 17 early-stage deals amid the positive investment environment in the country. As per an Entrackr report, SaaS-based digital adoption solution provider Whatfix raised $100 million. The company, however, is yet to make the funding public.

Infrastructure platform

While API infrastructure platform M2P Fintech secured $50 million, omnichannel diagnostics service provider Redcliffe raised $42 million and digital infrastructure company iBUS secured $34 million. Fleet management company Everest Fleet successfully raised $30 million as part of its ongoing $50 million Series C funding round, to enable it to scale operations and expand its fleet of clean-energy vehicles, including CNG and electric vehicles (EVs). Vahan.ai, an AI-powered recruitment platform, announced its Series B funding of $10 million led by Khosla Ventures.

The funds raised will be used to develop AI recruitment technology to support eight major Indian languages. Bengaluru-based startups led with 12 deals this week, followed by Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad. Last week, 24 domestic startups secured more than $229 million in funding, which included six growth-stage deals worth $182.65 million. The week saw 13 early-stage deals worth $46.14 million. The average funding in the last eight weeks stands at around $393 million, with 28 deals per week. IANS

HC steps in to protect ostracised family

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
Hyderabad

The Telangana High Court has stepped in to protect the rights of a Scheduled Caste (Madiga) family facing social ostracism in their village due to their refusal to adhere to traditional occupation practices.

Justice B Vijaysen Reddy ordered immediate police protection for P Chandram, a resident of Gowthojigudem village in Medak district, who was forced by villagers to continue his family's traditional role as drum players during ceremonies. The court's directive comes in response to a troubling situation where Chandram, a 33-year-old postgraduate in Commerce, moved to the city for a private job. In recent months, he faced mounting pressure from villagers to abandon his employment and resume drum beating, a role his family has held for generations. On September 10, after he refused to comply, the villagers convened a Gram Sabha and resolved to socially boycott him and his family.

Chandram's counsel, senior advocate V Raghunath, highlighted the severe consequences of this boycott. The family struggled to procure basic necessities, with reports indicating that Chandram's daughter faced isolation at school, as her peers were warned against associating with her. The social stigma became so pronounced that the family could not even secure milk for their five-year-old child.

After filing a complaint with the local police, an FIR was registered, but little action was taken in this regard. Instead, villagers escalated their intimidation, demanding the return of 'Inam land' to the panchayat and threatening fines and physical punishment for anyone who defied the boycott.

Chandram's petition underscored the inaction of local police, who reportedly only offered superficial responses and counselling to the accused villagers. Following the court's intervention, Medak Superintendent of Police has been directed to ensure the family's safety, while the District Collector has been instructed to provide relief and rehabilitation support.

Court reserves verdict

A two-judge panel of the Telangana High Court has reserved its verdict on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the State's inaction regarding the determination of ceiling limits for agricultural land holdings.

The panel, comprising Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice J. Sreenivas Rao, reviewed the writ petition filed by Mahesh Bodusu, who sought a directive for inquiry into alleged excess land holdings by unofficial respondents across the State. The petitioner argued that his family currently holds a total of 64 acres spread across various districts, which exceeds the standard ceiling of 54 acres established under the Telangana Land Reforms (Ceiling on Agricultural Holdings) Act, 1973.

Mahesh Bodusu contended that the unofficial respondents not only exceed the legal limit but may also possess additional unreported lands, which necessitates an inquiry by the authorities. During the proceedings, the court registry had initially raised objections regarding the public interest aspect of the petition, questioning its eligibility for PIL status. The matter was subsequently placed before the bench for determination. After extensive arguments from both sides, the judges decided to reserve their verdict in the case.

Cellular IoT revenue to cross $26 bn

NEW DELHI

The global cellular IoT market is set to maintain its strong expansion, with connections projected to exceed 6.2 billion by 2030, growing at a CAGR of 10 per cent. Counterpoint Research expects global cellular IoT revenues to surpass $26 billion by 2030, as average revenue per user (ARPU) are expected to stabilise in the latter part of the decade.

In 2023, the global cellular IoT connections surged 24 per cent to surpass 3.3 billion, despite challenges in the cellular IoT module sector. Global cellular IoT connectivity revenues also saw a 17 per cent YoY increase, reaching $13.7 billion, even as ARPU continued to decline. With 2.3 billion connections, China continues to dominate cellular IoT. IANS

22 killed in Gaza attack

Over 30 injured in Israel strike on school

Palestinians inspect the damage at the site of an Israeli strike on a school housing displaced Palestinians in Gaza City's Zaytoun neighbourhood on Saturday. — Photo: AFP

AP
GAZA STRIP

An Israeli strike on a school in northern Gaza on Saturday killed at least 22 people, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, while the Israeli army said it targeted a Hamas' command center in what used to be a school.

Another 30 were wounded in the strike on the school in the Zeitoun area of Gaza City, the Ministry said in a statement. Most of the casualties were women and children, it said.The Israeli army said earlier Saturday it struck Hamas' "command and control centre, which was embedded inside a compound that previously served" as a school. It said steps were taken to limit harming civilians, including the use of precise munitions and aerial surveillance. "The Hamas terrorist organisation systematically violates international law by operating from inside civilian infrastructure," the army said, an accusation it has repeatedly made.

Since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war, the Israeli army has struck a number of schools, packed with tens of thousands of Palestinians driven from their homes by Israeli offensives and evacuation orders. The conflict has left 90% of Palestinians in Gaza displaced, according to figures from the United Nations. The military has continually accused Hamas of operating from within civilian infrastructure in Gaza, including schools, UN facilities and hospitals. Earlier this month, an Israeli strike hit a school in the Nuseirat refugee camp, killing 14, according to Palestinian medical officials.

The Israeli military said it was targeting Hamas militants planning attacks from inside the school.In July, Israeli airstrikes hit a girls' school in Deir al-Balah, killing at least 30 people sheltering inside. Israel's military said it targeted a Hamas command center used to direct attacks against its troops and store "large quantities of weapons." The war began when Hamas-led fighters killed some 1,200 people in an Oct. 7 attack.

Hezbollah confirms death of senior leader in Israeli strike

Toll from rare attak on Beirut suburb rises to 37, over 60 injured

BEIRUT

Lebanon's Hezbollah on Friday night mourned the acting commander of its Elite Radwan Force, Ibrahim Aqil, who was killed earlier in the day by an Israeli airstrike on Beirut's southern suburbs. "Today, the great jihadist leader Ibrahim Aqil joined the procession of his brothers, the great martyr leaders, after a blessed life full of jihad, work, wounds, sacrifices, risks, challenges, achievements, and victories," read a statement released late Friday by Hezbollah.

Meanwhile, the local MTV channel reported that the body of Aqil was found along with seven other members of Hezbollah's Elite Radwan Force. The channel reported earlier that the whole command committee of the Elite Radwan Force was meeting in the building that was targeted by the Israeli airstrike. Civil defence teams are still searching for bodies under the rubble, Xinhua news agency reported.

Meanwhile, the death toll from an Israeli airstrike on a Beirut suburb has risen to 37, including seven women and three children, Lebanon's Health Minister said on Saturday. Firass Abiad said 68 people were also wounded of whom 15 remain in hospital, adding that search and rescue operations were still ongoing, with the number of casualties likely to rise.

The rare strike — the deadliest targeting the Lebanese capital since the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war — hit a densely populated southern neighbourhood on Friday afternoon during rush hour as people returned home. Israel said it killed 11 Hezbollah operatives, including Ibrahim Aqil who was in charge of the group's elite Radwan Force. The militant group members were in a meeting in the basement of the building that was destroyed.

Hezbollah announced overnight Friday that 15 of its operatives were killed by Israeli forces, but did not elaborate on the location of these deaths. Lebanese troops cordoned off the area preventing people from reaching the building that was knocked down. IANS/AP

Hezbollah top commander Ibrahim Aqil

Houthis vow to continue attacks against Israel

SANAA: Yemen's Houthi Defence Minister vowed in a televised statement that his group would continue attacks against Israel. "The Israeli entity, and those who support and back it, must understand well that our strikes will continue," the Houthi-run al-Masirah TV quoted Defence Minister Mohammed Nasser al-Atifi as saying.

"Any attack on our land or on our allies will be met with a fast and strong response," he said. "We are determined to strike at the depth of Israel and its sensitive sites, and we will not stop until the aggression on Gaza stops." The Houthi Defence Minister said that Israel is "now in the range of our fire." Earlier this week, the Houthi group claimed responsibility for what it said was a "ballistic missile attack in Tel Aviv." Since November last year, the Houthi group has been launching missile and drone attacks targeting what it said were "Israeli-linked" ships in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, as well as targets in Israel, to show solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza. IANS

UNSC meets in emergency session over Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS: The UN Security Council has met in an emergency session on Lebanon, following an uptick in cross-border fire between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, and deadly wireless device explosions targeting members of the militant group. Rosemary DiCarlo, UN under-secretary-general for political and peacebuilding affairs, said on Friday that alarming developments in Lebanon and the region have come after nearly one year of hostilities on an almost daily basis across the Blue Line, a buffer zone separating Israel and Lebanon, Xinhua news agency reported.

"These exchanges have been a repeated breach of the cessation of hostilities and in violation of resolution 1701," she said. Abdallah Bou Habib, Lebanon's Foreign Minister, said "Israel, through this terrorist aggression, has violated basic principles of international law ... and indiscriminately targeted civilians." Denouncing Israel as "a rogue state," he called on council to condemn the recent attacks, implement resolution 1701 and stand on the right side of history. IANS

In Brief

LAHORE

Four ISIS terrorists held

Four alleged ISIS terrorists have been arrested in Pakistan's Punjab province, police said on Saturday. A spokesperson of Punjab Police's Counter Terrorism Department said that acting on a tip-off, the CTD raided the hideouts of terrorists in four cities of Punjab — Lahore, Toba Tek Singh Bahawalpur and Mianwali — and arrested as many terrorists belonging to Daesh (ISIS). PTI

TOKYO

One dead in Japan rain

Unprecedented rainfall hit Japan's Ishikawa Prefecture on Saturday, leaving one person dead and seven missing, local media reported. Prefectural authorities said one person died and seven were missing after being swept away by rivers in Suzu, Wajima and Noto, the three municipalities where an emergency rain warning was issued, Xinhua news agency reported. IANS

LIMA

Peru's forest fires toll at 18

The death toll from Peru's forest fires has increased to 18. The forest fires injured 165 people and unfortunately claimed the lives of 18 people so far this year, while some 2,000 hectares of crops have been affected. At a meeting held at the National Emergency Operations Center headquarters, institutional head of Indeci, Juan Urcariegui, said that 83 per cent of the fires ha ve been controlled. The government declared a state of emergency in Amazonas. IANS

'Secret Service failed to protect Trump'

WASHINGTON

A new report has shown that the US Secret Service is responsible for security failures in the assassination attempt against former President Donald Trump at a rally in Pennsylvania on July 13, which led to one death and multiple injuries. An internal review by the agency revealed that agents neglected to use technology that could have identified the attacker when he flew a drone over the rally site hours before the incident.

The report highlighted failures by the Secret Service's advance team and its coordination with state and local law enforcement prior to the attack. The Secret Service, responsible for overseeing Trump's security, failed to instruct local police snipers to secure a nearby rooftop.

Former Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle, who resigned amid widespread outrage over the agency's failure to prevent the incident, was previously grilled by multiple lawmakers at a Congressional hearing on why the agency failed to secure the rooftop. At a news briefing on Friday, Acting Director Ronald Rowe highlighted a "lack of clarity" from the Secret Service in their security planning for Trump's rally.

At the rally, just shortly before shots were fired into the crowd, some people saw the suspect climbing on top of the roof and alerted local police, but Trump's protective detail had no idea police were searching for the suspicious person. Secret Service agents and local law enforcement operated on different radio frequencies and were stationed in separate locations, which hindered their ability to quickly share information.

"It's important that we hold ourselves accountable for the failures of July 13th, and that we use the lessons learned to make sure that we do not have another failure like this again," Rowe said. After the assassination attempt of Trump in Pennsylvania, the Secret Service allocated additional resources not typically provided to someone in Trump's position. IANS

Internal review holds the agency responsible for security failures in assassination attempt on the former US President in July

PROST!

Revellers during the opening day of the Oktoberfest beer festival in Munich, southern Germany, on Saturday. — Photo: AFP

Iranian border guards kill two 'terrorists'

TEHRAN

Iranian border guards thwarted an infiltration attempt by a "terrorist group" in an operation at the border, killing two of its members.

Members of the group sought to enter Iran from a border crossing in Sirkan in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan to perpetrate "acts of sabotage" in the country on Friday, reports Xinhua, quoting the semi-official Fars news agency.

Iran's Border Guards Commander Ahmad Ali Goudarzi added that Iranian border guards dealt a "heavy blow and defeat" to the "terrorists" after detecting the group's movements near border based on intelligence information. IANS

Russian arms depot on fire after Ukrainian strike

KYIV

A blaze tore through a Russian arms depot deep inside the country, triggering explosions and the closure of a major highway, after Ukraine overnight launched over 100 drones at Russia and occupied Crimea, Russian news reports and the Defence Ministry said. The depot appeared to be just kilometres from another that was struck by Ukrainian drones early Wednesday, injuring 13 people and also causing a huge fire.

Russian authorities on Saturday closed a 100-km stretch of a highway and evacuated passengers from a nearby rail station after the fire caused a series of explosions. Posts on local Telegram channels on the messaging app said a missile depot was struck near the town of Toropets, in Russia's Tver region about 380 km northwest of Moscow and about 500 km from the Ukrainian border. Unverified images circulating on Telegram showed a large ball of flame rising into the night sky and dozens of smoke trails from detonations. AP

Zelenskyy for quick US action

UKRAINE: A massive Ukrainian drone attack set a Russian arms depot ablaze deep inside the country, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said ahead of his visit to the White House that Kyiv's multi-point "victory plan" demands quick action from the United States.

The "victory plan" that Zelenskyy will present to President Joe Biden will include long-range striking capabilities and other weapons long sought by Kyiv, and will serve as the basis for any future negotiation with Russia, Zelenskyy said ahead of next week's trip. Zelenskyy has regularly alluded to the plan's preparation but has not publicly outlined its contents, saying only that it contains terms acceptable for Ukraine to negotiate with Russia after 2 1/2-year war following Moscow's full-scale invasion.

"This will be the start and foundation for talking in any format with Russia. In any format, with any of its representatives, because there will be a plan and something to show," Zelenskyy said in a briefing with reporters on Friday. AP

Lanka Prez poll sees 75% turnout

COLOMBO

Sri Lankans on Saturday voted to elect a new President in the first elections since the economic meltdown in 2022. An overnight curfew was declared islandwide hours after polling ended and counting started immediately.

Polling from 7 am to 4 pm went off peacefully with no violence or any security breach reported from anywhere across the 22 electoral districts.

"The voter turnout out in Saturday's presidential election is expected to be 75 per cent," Director General Elections Saman Sri Ratnayaka declared. This would be lower than the 83 per cent polled in the previous presidential election held in November 2019.

Hours after counting of votes began soon after polling ended at 4 pm, the entire country was put under curfew from 10 pm till 6 am on Sunday to "prevent any untoward incidents post-election," the police said. The polls were held from 7 am to 4 pm local time at over 13,400 polling stations at 22 electoral districts in the election which had the highest number of candidates, 38, but no female aspirant for the top post. The elections are crucial for incumbent President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who is seeking re-election as an independent claiming credit for putting the country on the road to economic recovery. Observers said voting in the northern district of Jaffna was on a slow trickle by mid day. A Tamil minority hardline group had discouraged people from voting in the run up to the election.

The counting of postal votes commenced immediately after the voting closed at 4 pm, officials said. PTI

South Carolina executes first death row inmate in 13 years

COLUMBIA (SC)

South Carolina put inmate Freddie Owens to death Friday as the State restarted executions after an unintended 13-year pause because prison officials couldn't get the drugs needed for lethal injections.

Owens was convicted of the 1997 killing of a Greenville convenience store clerk during a robbery. While on trial, Owens killed an inmate at a county jail. His confession to that attack was read to two different juries and a judge who all sentenced him to death.

Owens, 46, was pronounced dead at 6.55 pm. His last-ditch appeals were repeatedly denied, including by a federal court Friday morning. Owens also petitioned for a stay of execution from the US Supreme Court. South Carolina's governor and corrections director swiftly filed a reply, stating the high court should reject Owens' petition. The filing said nothing is exceptional about his case.

The High Court denied the request shortly after the scheduled start time of the execution. AP

India on brink of victory

Gill, Pant hit centuries to put home side in command; Chasing 515 B'desh 154/4

PTI
CHENNAI

Rishabh Pant and Shubman Gill cleansed months of hurt, anxiety and disappointments of varying nature with emotional hundreds on the third day to place India in a prime position to win the first Test against Bangladesh here Saturday.

Gill (119 not out) and Pant (109 led the hosts' run glut with an alliance of 167 for the fourth wicket that helped India, overnight 81/3, declare their second innings at 287 for 4 for an overall lead of 514. Bangladesh showed some spunk in their second innings to reach 158 for four when play was called off at 4.25 pm due to bad light. They still need a whopping 357 runs for the result to be in their favour.

Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto (51) and Shakib Al-Hasan (5) were manning the crease for the visitors, and the day could have ended on a better note for them have they been a slightly more judicious in shot selection against star off-spinner R Ashwin (3/63).

But let's forget the match situation and those dreary numbers for a while to cast a deeper look into the story of the day. The hundreds by Pant and Gill stood as a testimony of these two fine young men's will to rise above towering personal obstacles that would have strangled the ordinary. Pant's turmoil has been widely documented after that horrifying car crash in December 2022, and the way he reacted after reaching his sixth Test hundred with a two off Shakib Al-Hasan underscored the value he attached to the knock.

Pant stood near the middle of the pitch with closed eyes, an upward tilted head and a raised bat – offering a silent prayer, perhaps, to the Lord above for returning life and cricket to him. Gill watched the whole scene from a fair distance, as he did not want to invade into an intensely private moment of his partner. Soon, the two brave hearts melted into a warm embrace as Chepauk erupted. Perhaps, the moment also stood as a tribute to Pant equalling Chennai's very own 'Thala' MS Dhoni's record for the most Test hundreds by an Indian wicketkeeper-batsman – six. Compared to Pant's, Gill's struggles have been less pronounced as they were more mental than physical in nature, stemming primarily from his lack of confidence in himself.

However, since making that hundred against England at Visakhapatnam earlier this year, Gill seemed to have turned a corner and he further validated that journey upwards with his fifth Test hundred.

India's Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant celebrate their centuries against Bangladesh, in Chennai on Saturday. —Photo: PTI

Scorecard

INDIA 1ST INNINGS 376
BANGLADESH 1ST INNINGS 149
INDIA 2ND INNINGS
Yashasvi Jaiswal c †Litton Das b Nahid Rana 10 (17b, 2x4), Rohit Sharma (c) c Zakir Hasan b Taskin Ahmed 5 (7b, 1x4), Shubman Gill no 119 (176b, 10x4, 4x6), Virat Kohli lbw b Mehidy Hasan Miraz 17 (37b, 2x4), Rishabh Pant †c & b Mehidy Hasan Miraz 109 (128b, 13x4, 4x6), KL Rahul no 22 (19b, 4x4); **Extras:** (lb 4, w 1) **5; Total:** (For 4 wkts in 64 overs) **287; Fall of wickets:** 1-15, 2-28, 3-67, 4-234; **Bowling:** Taskin Ahmed 7-1-22-1, Hasan Mahmud 11-1-43-0, Nahid Rana 6-0-21-1, Shakib Al Hasan 13-0-79-0, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 25-3-103-2, Mominul Haque 2-0-15-0

BANGLADESH 2ND INNINGS
Zakir Hasan c Jaiswal b Bumrah 33(47b, 5x4, 1x6), Shadman Islam c Shubman Gill b Ashwin 35 (68b, 3x4), Najmul Hossain Shanto (c)no 51 (60b, 4x4, 3x6), Mominul Haque b Ashwin 13 (24b, 3x4), Mushfiqur Rahim c Rahul b Ashwin 13 (11b, 1x4, 1x6), Shakib Al Hasan no 5 (14b); **Extras:** (b 4, lb 4) **8; Total:** (For 4 wkts in 37.2 overs) **158; Fall of wickets:** 1-62, 2-86, 3-124, 4-146; **Bowling:** Jasprit Bumrah 7-2-18-1, Mohammed Siraj 3.2-1-20-0, Akash Deep 6-0-20-0, Ravichandran Ashwin 15-0-63-3, Ravindra Jadeja 6-0-29-0

Gill's footwork outplays Bangladesh spinners

CHENNAI

Shubman Gill on Saturday went old-school in using his feet to nullify Bangladesh spinners on a pitch that had a hint of variable bounce, and the India batter said it was a part of his meticulous approach to unsettle the visiting tweakers.

Gill made an unbeaten 119 that led India to 287 for four declared in their second innings for a hefty overall lead of 514 on the third day of the first Test.

"Initially when I used to practice, especially against spinners, I used to step down trying to rotate. It's the same here because it's hard for bowlers to settle on a wicket like this where the odd one is turning but not all the balls are turning," Gill said.

That strategy was on view when he stepped out to hammer off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz for a six in the 64th over, while a few overs earlier he meted out the same treatment to Shakib Al-Hasan. On that occasion, Gill shimmied down to slap a flighted delivery from the left-arm spinner to the fence to collect four runs.

Gill said he has been training to use his feet against the spinners from a very young age and kept adding new layers as the age advanced. "It's something that I started practicing when I was very young because I was always a tall guy. So, it was easier for me to use my feet and play along the ground. Playing in the air and hitting sixes actually came a bit later when I got a little bit more power in my body," he explained.

> **I used to step down against spinners to rotate the strike during practice. It's the same here**
>
> — **SHUBMAN GILL,** Indian batter

"Definitely, scoring runs against any opposition gives you a lot of confidence and that's what I have been working on. So, it (scoring against spinners) gives me a lot of satisfaction. I practiced a lot before the series," Gill added.

The day's hundred was Gill's third ton in his last eight Test innings, with the other two coming against England at Visakhapatnam and Dharamsala earlier this year. The 25-year-old admitted that the series against the 'Three Lions' where he scored nearly 500 runs has boosted his self-belief in the longest format.

"I think the series that I had against England gave me a lot of confidence. I felt it was a long time coming for me, especially batting at that position (No. 3). And having got out the way I got out in the first innings (down the leg side), I was obviously very disappointed. PTI

STREAMING NOW

Cricket: Ind vs B'desh, Day 4 1st Test, 9.30 am on Sports 18 & JioCinema

SL vs NZ, 1st Test Day 4, 10 am on Sony Sports Ten 5

Football: EPL, Man City vs Arsenal, 9.00 pm on Star Sports Select 1

In Brief

PUDUCHERRY
India U-19 cruise past Aus U-19

KP Karthikeya hit an unbeaten 85 while skipper Mohammed Amaan also scored a half-century in India U-19's easy seven-wicket victory over Australia U-19 in the first Youth ODI here on Saturday. Batting first, Australia scored 184 in 49.4 overs. In reply India reached the target with 14 overs to spare. Brief Scores: Aus U-19 184 in 49.4 overs(S Hogan 42, M Enaan 4/32) lost to Ind U-19 185/3 (KP Karthikeya 85 no, M Amaan 58 no).

NEW DELHI
Kalikesh Singh new NRAI chief

Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo was elected president of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) after he beat his rival VK Dhall 36-21 in the polls held at the Constitution Club of India here on Saturday. Kalikesh, a former MP from Odisha, was taking care of the day-to-day functioning of the NRAI after the position fell vacant last year following the resignation of Raninder Singh as per the government's National Sports Code (NSC).

JAMSHEDPUR
Jamshedpur edge past Mumbai 3-2

Spaniard Javi Hernandez struck a brace as Jamshedpur FC eked out a hard-fought 3-2 win over Mumbai City FC after falling a goal behind to secure their first home victory of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 season on Saturday. Hernandez scored in the 44th and 50th minutes while Jordan Murray (36th minute) got the other goal for the home side. Nikolaos Karelis (18th) and Yoell van Nieff (77th) found the target for Mumbai City.

KOLKATA
MSC, FC Goa play out 1-1 draw

Debutants Mohammedan Sporting Club registered their first point in the Indian Super League (ISL) as they played out a 1-1 draw with FC Goa on Saturday. Mohammedan Sporting dictated terms in the majority of the game. They broke the deadlock in the 66th minute, courtesy Alexis Gomez's spot kick. But Armando Sadiku's header in stoppage time (90+4 minute) meant that the points were shared.

Duleep Trophy: Bhui, Iyer help India D consolidate lead

ANANTAPUR

Ricky Bhui was 10 runs short of his second successive hundred as India D's overall lead swelled to 311 against India B when stumps were drawn on the third day of the Duleep Trophy encounter here on Saturday.

Shreyas Iyer also showed some form with a purposeful half-century for India D, scoring 50 off 40 balls. At stumps, India D scored 244 for 5 in their second innings with Bhui unbeaten on 90 off just 87 balls with 10 fours and three sixes to his credit.

Earlier, India B were all out for 282 in their first innings in reply to 'D's first essay of 349. Starting the day at 210 for 6, Washington Sundar (87) ran out of partners as none of the tail-enders stayed long enough to give him an opportunity to complete his hundred. Washington's 140-ball knock was studded with seven fours and a six.

Left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar, who has been on the fringes for a long time finished with 5 for 73 while Arshdeep Singh couldn't add to his overnight tally of three victims. In the second innings, India D had quickly slumped to 18 for 3 by the start of the fourth over but Iyer and Bhui counter-attacked with great disdain, adding 75 runs in just 10.3 overs.

India A in strong position

Riyan Parag and Shaswat Rawat struck half-centuries to help India A tighten their grip over India C on the penultimate day of the Duleep Trophy final-round match here on Saturday.

Parag made 73 off 101 balls with the help of five fours and one six, while Rawat hit a stroke-filled 53 off 67 balls laced with four boundaries and one hit over the fence to take India A to 270 for six in their second innings. Skipper Mayank Agarwal made a fine 34 after opening the batting.

BRIEF SCORES: India D 349 and 244/5 in 44 overs (Ricky Bhui 90 no, Shreyas Iyer 50, Mukesh Kumar 3/80, Navdeep Saini 2/40) vs India B 282 in 76.2 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 116, Washington Sundar 87, Saurabh Kumar 5/73, Arshdeep Singh 3/50); India A 297 & 270 for 6 in 64 overs (Riyan Parag 73, Shaswat Rawat 53; Anshul Kamboj 2/52, Gaurav Yadav 2/60) vs India C 234 in 71 overs (Abhishek Porel 82, Aaqib Khan 3/43, Avesh Khan 3/64). PTI

Afghanistan crush SA, seal ODI series

Gurbaz, Rashid, Kharote star in team's 177-run win in 2nd ODI

SHARJAH

Afghanistan won a one-day international series against South Africa for the first time on Friday with a game to spare.

The thumping 177-run victory — Afghanistan's biggest in ODIs by runs — came just two days after Afghanistan beat South Africa for the first time. Also, Rahmanullah Gurbaz's 105 made him the first Afghan man to hit seven ODI hundreds. Their strong total of 311-4 in sweltering heat was followed by South Africa being all out for 134 in the 35th over.

Leg-spinner Rashid Khan, who injured his hamstring while batting, celebrated his 26th birthday with 5-19 and left-arm spinner Nangeyalia Kharote claimed 4-26. Afghanistan will eye a series sweep in the final ODI on Sunday. "I had a hamstring (injury), but I tried my best to stay on the ground and do my best for the team," Rashid said.

"It was a great opportunity for us to win the series against a big team ... I really enjoy youngsters like Kharote and (Allah) Ghazanfar, we share ideas with them. It was great to see youngsters coming up and showcasing talent on the big stage against South Africa." Gurbaz and then Azmatullah Omarzai laid the foundation for Afghanistan's first 300-plus score against South Africa in an ODI. Gurbaz and Rahmat Shah combined for a 101-run for the second wicket. The 90s brought some nervy moments for Gurbaz.

On 99, he played a maiden over from Bjorn Fortuin then swept Aiden Markram to square leg. He celebrated his century by making a heart shape with his hands and blew a kiss to his teammates in the dressing room. Nandre Burger made the breakthrough when he bowled Gurbaz for 105 off 110 balls, including 10 boundaries and three sixes.

Afghanistan's Rashid Khan in action against South Africa.

BRIEF SCORES: Afghanistan 311/4 in 50 overs (Rahmanullah Gurbaz 105, Azmatullah Omarzai 86) bt South Africa 134 in 34.5 overs (Temba Bavuma 38, Rashid Khan 5/19, Nangeyalia Kharote 4/26). AP

Short takes

HOCKEY NEW DELHI

Skipper Harmanpreet nominated for FIH Player of the Year

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh, who powered India to a second successive bronze medal in hockey at the Olympics in Paris, was on Saturday nominated for the FIH Player of the Year Award. The 28-year-old, who was the top scorer at the Paris Olympics with 10 goals from eight matches, had previously won the award twice in a row from 2020-22. "It is a great honour to be nominated for the FIH Player of the Year Award again," the Indian defender said.

FOOTBALL RIYADH

Ronaldo helps Al-Nassr win in new coach Pioli's first game

Cristiano Ronaldo opened the scoring as Al-Nassr defeated Ettifaq 3-0 and gave Stefano Pioli victory in his first game as coach of the Saudi Arabian club on Friday. The Italian, who led AC Milan to the Serie A title in 2022, was appointed on Wednesday. The Portuguese coach was dismissed the previous day due to Al-Nassr's slow start to the season with just one win in three Saudi Pro League games. Ronaldo, fired home from the penalty spot after 33 minutes.

CRICKET HARARE

Raza hopeful of local players shining in Zim Afro 2nd season

David Warner's focus is now solely on piling on the run in the Zim Afro T10. But Sikandar Raza is hopeful that players from the Zimbabwe cricketing family can outperform the international stars at the second edition of the Zim Afro T10, stating, "What I'm looking for is that I'm really hoping and praying and wishing that it's a Zimbabwean who scores the most number of runs, takes the most number of catches, and takes the most number of wickets."

CRICKET CHENNAI

Don't be afraid to go over the top: Shastri's advice to Kohli

Ravi Shastri feels that Virat Kohli shouldn't be afraid of using his feet and playing aerial shots against the spinners when the field is up. "He has (gotten out to spinners) especially in the last 2-3 years. But he has scored a lot of runs too. What you want to see him do more is use his feet. Get to the pitch of the ball. You've got to move with the times, don't be afraid to go over the top when the field is up. You could try and do things to unsettle the spinners," Shastri said.

CRICKET MACKAY

Aus await Gardner's availability for 2nd T20I against NZ

Australia will wait until Sunday to determine whether star all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner will be fit for the second T20I against New Zealand in Mackay, following her collision with teammate Georgia Wareham that saw her miss the series opener. Despite not being diagnosed with a concussion, Gardner was sidelined for the first match as a precaution due to her history of head knocks. She trained with the team on Saturday morning and will continue to be monitored.

Liverpool sweep Bournemouth aside

Diaz nets twice in The Reds' 3-0 win, move top of the table

IANS
LIVERPOOL

Liverpool returned to winning ways in the Premier League with a comprehensive 3-0 victory over AFC Bournemouth at Anfield on Saturday. A quickfire brace from Luis Diaz midway through the first half was added to before the interval by Darwin Nunez as the Reds ensured there would be no repeat of last weekend's home loss to Nottingham Forest.

The three points lifted Arne Slot's team, for whom Federico Chiesa made his Anfield bow as a second-half substitute, to the top of the table before Manchester City met with Arsenal on Sunday. It appeared that Bournemouth had taken an early lead when Antoine Semenyo slid in at the back post to convert Justin Kluivert's low ball across, but the goal was disallowed for offside following a VAR review.

Midway through the first half, a raking pass by Ibrahima Konate located Diaz, whose intelligent first touch cushioned the ball away from the advancing Kepa on the edge of the area before he calmly applied the finish. And with Anfield still celebrating and Bournemouth reeling, Liverpool struck again immediately. Trent Alexander-Arnold surged forward from deep and resisted the temptation to pull the trigger from 18 yards, instead slipping a pass into Diaz, who did the rest by slotting in his fifth goal in five Premier League appearances this term. Slot's side were in the mood and the Cherries were unable to make it to half-time without suffering further as, eight minutes before the break, Nunez notched the third goal which put the game to bed early.

"Obviously, coming off a good performance in Milan, it was important to keep going, not be satisfied and obviously in the first half three good goals. We could have scored more, in my opinion, maybe should have. But Bournemouth are still a very good team and they created some difficult moments and we had to fight. Overall, very happy with the clean sheet, 3-0, and now we focus on the Carabao Cup," said club captain Virgil Van Dijk.

Luis Diaz (left) celebrates after scoring a goal against Bournemouth during the English Premier league match at Anfield.

Chelsea thrash West Ham

LONDON: West Ham United's start to life under new head coach Julen Lopetegui has seen the side win only one game in their opening five.

Their 0-3 loss against Chelsea on Saturday was a tough one for the side and according to captain Jarred Bowen, the Hammers "were never in the game." "We were never in the game, which is an awful thing to say. The goals that they scored were easy on our part - two gifts. You have to be switched on at every moment.

On the pitch, it felt quite easy to play through [us], a disappointing day all-round. Of course, as a player and captain, you have to lead and rally everyone together. We gave them too much respect in the end," he said.

Chelsea blew past West Ham United in the Premier League with a 3-0 win away at the London Stadium thanks to a quickfire brace by Nicolas Jackson and a second-half goal by Cole Palmer. IANS

McLaren's Norris takes pole in Singapore GP

Edges past Verstappen, who settles for second

SINGAPORE

Lando Norris edged ahead of his title rival Max Verstappen on Saturday to start in pole position for the Singapore Grand Prix.

Qualifying turned into a one-lap shootout for the top positions when a crash for Carlos Sainz Jr. interrupted the final session. "I was finding it a little difficult to progress much and to get a lot of lap time and more of the guys around seemed to get quicker and quicker," Norris said.

"So it put me under a little bit more pressure, especially with just one lap at the end, but it was good enough for pole and I'm happy with that." The McLaren driver was .203 of a second ahead of Verstappen to start on pole, with Lewis Hamilton third for Mercedes, .316 off Norris' time.

Verstappen, who said he was happy with second after struggling for grip in practice in his Red Bull, leads Norris in the standings by 59 points. There are seven rounds of the championship remaining, including Sunday's race. Norris' teammate Oscar Piastri, the winner in Azerbaijan last week, was only fifth after going slower in the top-10 session than he had earlier in qualifying.

After Hamilton, Mercedes also had George Russell fourth in one of its better qualifying sessions this year, but it was a day to forget for Ferrari as Charles Leclerc had his lap time deleted in the final session for going off track and Sainz crashed. Sainz spun into the wall in what he called a "big snap" of the steering, possibly caused by cold tires. The car was left with damage to the rear end and Sainz, who seemed unhurt, qualified 10th. Verstappen's teammate Sergio Perez was only 13th in another disappointing result this season.

Daniel Ricciardo qualified 16th, eight places behind teammate Yuki Tsunoda, as the Australian's place with RB comes under threat. Red Bull's second team could replace Ricciardo with reserve driver Liam Lawson for the last six rounds of the championship, starting from the United States Grand Prix next month. AP

McLaren driver Lando Norris in action during the third practice session of the Singapore Formula One GP on Saturday. — Photo: AP

Vantika helps India earn draw

BUDAPEST

International Master Vantika Agrawal delivered the goods when it was badly needed, defeating Grandmaster Irina Krush to force a 2-2 draw against the United States while the Indian men stayed in sole lead after splitting points with Uzbekistan in the ninth round of the 45th Chess Olympiad here.

The Indian think-tank rested Grandmaster D Harika but it did not change the fortunes as R Vaishali went down to Gulrukhbegim Tokhirjonova. Divya Deshmukh settled for the peace result in an uneventful game with black against Carissa Yip. PTI

In Brief

DUBAI

GXR launches football stream

Galaxy Racer (GXR), a leading transmedia powerhouse based in Dubai, will emerge as the home for European football fans across the Indian subcontinent. The Galaxy Racer app has commenced live streams of the Spanish La Liga, Serie A - as well as Coppa Italia and Supercoppa Italiana and the French Ligue 1 and Ligue 2 starting from the 2024/25 season.

HYDERABAD

DMRL secure football trophy

DMRL, Hyderabad defeated ASL, Hyderabad in the final of the DRDO Central Zone Football Championship in Hyderabad on Friday, to clinch the championship. For the winners, Mrityonjay Dutta, Nagaraj and Nizamul Ansari scored a goal each to secure DMRL's 3-1 triumph in the summit clash. Result: Final: DMRL (Mrityonjay Dutta 24', Nagaraj 26', Nizamul Ansari 46')bt ASL (S Dutta 40').

HYDERABAD

Trials to pick Santosh Trophy side

The Telangana Football Association will conduct trials to select the State senior team for the upcoming Santosh Trophy. The trials will be held at Gymkhana football ground at 6 am on Monday and are open only to TFA-registered players from the Twin Cities, the TFA said in a press release.

Abbas Union gear up for play-offs

SPORTS BUREAU
Hyderabad

After an impressive run in the group stage of the ongoing I-League 3 campaign, Abbas Union FC (AUFC) are now gearing up for the championship play-offs.

The Hyderabad-based club, who topped Group E with nine points, will take on Dalbir FA in the Group B play-off opener at Kalyani Stadium, Kolkata on Wednesday. Dalbir FA secured their spot in the play-offs by finishing runner-up in Group B with six points.

AUFC PLAY-OFFS FIXTURES: September 25, Abbas Union FC vs Dalbir FA; September 29, Chanmari FC vs Abbas Union FC; October 1, Abbas Union FC vs SAT Tirur; October 3, GMSC vs Abbas Union FC.

Abbas Union FC squad upon their arrival in Kolkata.

MotoGP: Ducati's Bagnaia clinches pole

EMILIA-ROMAGNA

Francesco Bagnaia of Team Ducati set a stunning time to claim pole position for the Gran Premio Pramac dell'Emilia-Romagna, the 14th race of the MotoGP calendar for 2024. The Italian destroyed the lap record for the Misano World Circuit Marco Simoncelli, clocking an unbelievable 1:30.031 claiming a 0.214s advantage over Championship leader Jorge Martin (Prima Pramac Racing).

The rider #89 was on provisional pole in the opening moments of the session, before being pipped by his title rival in the final five minutes. Meanwhile, it was another great result for Ducati Lenovo Team's Enea Bastianini, with 'The Beast' charging to the third and final spot on the front row improving on his final flying lap. Q1 brought further drama to the Misano World Circuit Marco Simoncelli, with Alex Marquez (Gresini Racing) crashing early at Turn 1. The #73 sprinted back to the box, ready for a final time attack, the broadcaster of MotoGP in India, Eurosport, informed in a release on Saturday. IANS

Ducati's Francesco Bagnaia during the qualifying session of the Emilia-Romagna MotoGP on Saturday. — Photo: AFP

Horoscope

J U B Sastry

ARIES
Aries (March 21-April 20)
With Mars trying to gain strength in Cancer this week, spousal agreement will keep you on a high pedestal. You will find your spouse working hard to regain the family's financial status. You will be elated as you succeed in convincing your spouse that happiness stems from continuous flow of income. Spousal priority may limit to keep you in a happy state of mind.

TAURUS
(April 21-May 21)
Realising that you are dealing with most powerful rivals in life, you will recognise the need to mend strategies this week. Despite entertaining doubts over your ability to outsmart them, you will display courage and confidence to take on people. You will play cards close to your chest to confuse your rivals and put them on the defensive. You will be highly aggressive.

GEMINI
(May 22- June 21)
Mercury's transit in your other ruling quarters will reinvigorate your desires and guide you into reestablishing your controversial connections this week. You may be determined in making up financial losses that you suffered recently. Women will pass through a surge of emotions and think of owning gold ornaments. You may list out new demands before elders.

CANCER
(June 22- July 22)
You will continue to believe that cash in hand is much safer than depending on dead investments and this may be your prioritised thinking this week. Still, you will spare time to explore more sources to generate revenue to elevate your cash reserves. You may also try to educate others that money brings in money and this is your life-guiding principle. No one may counter you.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 23)
Jupiter's transit in celestial quarters guiding your gains will take the mindset back to square one again this week. You may have more sleepless nights as you keep on thinking about people like Judas in your dispensation. With Mars calling shots in your discomforts zone, you may continue to feel uncertain about the outcome of the legal battle you are waging.

VIRGO
(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)
With Mars trying to gain strength in watery zone, there will be a sea change in your attitude this week. You will become more bullish in thinking that there is a growing need to retain your position. If you are heading an organisation, you may feel the necessity of displaying your dependability more than ever. Your strategies may include a plan to show your rivals in poor light.

LIBRA
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)
You will feel that you have gained back your supremacy over professional rivals this week. As Venus moves in ruling quarters in the company of Southern Node, you will find it easy to remove suspicions in mind over possible results of your decisions. You will display more confidence and go ahead with usual activity. Your rivals will maintain low profile in most respects.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)
Transit of Mars in debilitation zone will give you more freedom to act independently this week. For the past few days, you might have been under pressure to act with falsehood and misrepresentation of facts to succeed in your mission. But your determination will prevail as you continue to believe that you can't deviate from traditions. You will act on your own.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23-Dec. 21)
You will continue to work hard and feel elated by keeping others at home also happy this week. But, with Mars regaining its strength in Cancer, you may develop second thoughts occasionally in understanding and defining the word happiness. You may think you are straining yourself for the sake of others. You will come to terms that you can't escape from responsibilities.

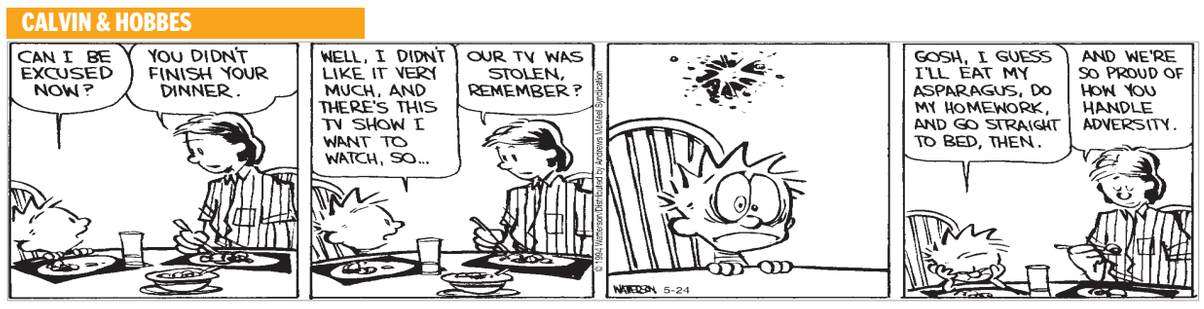
CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 20)
It seems you have given freedom to some people in handling your affairs this week. But have you ever kept a vigil on their activities? Your blind belief may allow them to betray your trust bringing you disrepute. Situations may force you to provide explanations to higher-ups. Don't be negligent on that count as it reduces your image. Long-distance travels are on the cards.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21-Feb. 19)
Enthusiasm and energy will mark your activity at the workplace this week. As Venus and Jupiter establish trine relationship, you will move with speed and win appreciation from colleagues. You may perform a feat that looks impossible to finish even for seniors. The weekly celestial influences will win you more fans at work. You may be subject of discussion.

PISCES
(Feb. 20-March 20)
Have you given more freedom to spouse to act independently and dominate you in most respects? Women may begin to feel that the partner has been taking advantage of this lenience. With Mars now gaining strength in Cancer, you may take it as a sort of spousal harassment. You will make it clear that you are not ready to enjoy love attached to terms and conditions.

COMIC STRIPS

CALVIN & HOBBES



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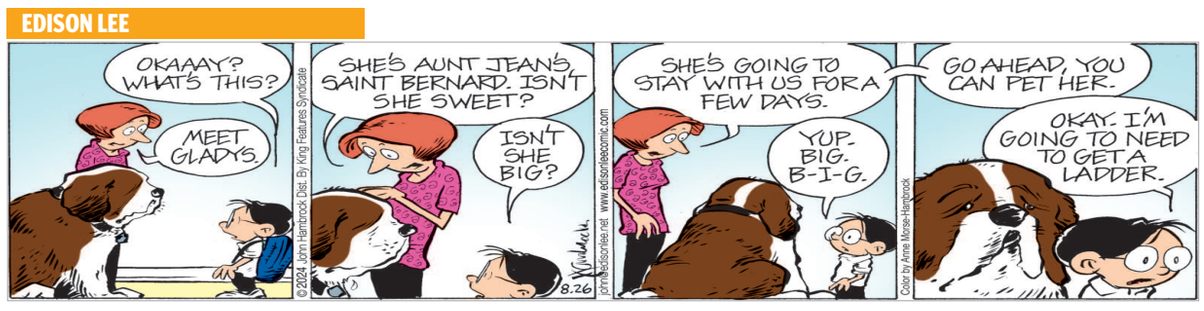

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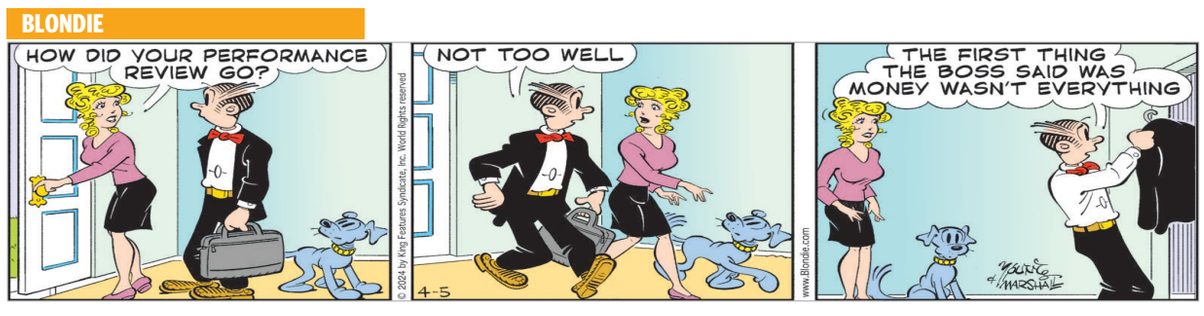


FLASH GORDON

BIRTHDAY SPECIAL

KAREENA TURNS 44, WISHES POUR IN

VIJAY VARMA SHARES EXCLUSIVE MOMENTS WITH THE DIVA

Bollywood actor Kareena Kapoor Khan, who can be seen in the recently released theatrical movie 'The Buckingham Murders', turned 44 on Saturday, and the B-town is lining up to wish the star on her birthday.

Actor Vijay Varma, who shared the screen with Kareena in the streaming thriller movie 'Jaane Jaan', took to his Instagram on Saturday, and shared a clip from the making of the film.

The Instagram Reel shows Kareena lip-syncing to the song 'Aa Jaane Jaan' in a club. Kareena starts off slow but soon grooves to perfection before Vijay joins her in the frame making up for a terrific duo.

Wishing the actor on her birthday, Vijay wrote in the caption, "Happy birthday Diva @kareenakapoorkhan Here's a fun bts of me dancing (read attempt at dancing) on her finger tips #jaanejaan #mainapnifavouritehoon (sic)."

'Jaane Jaan', which was directed by Sujoy Ghosh of 'Kahaani' fame, is an adaptation of the 2005 Japanese novel 'The Devotion of Suspect X' by Keigo Higashino. The movie starred Kareena Kapoor Khan, as a single mother involved in a murder, alongside Jaideep Ahlawat and Vijay Varma. The film was produced under the banner 12th Street Entertainment and Northern Lights Films in association with Kross Pictures and Balaji Motion Pictures. It was released last year on the occasion of Kareena's birthday on streaming giant Netflix.

Meanwhile, Vijay can be seen in the recently released streaming series 'IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack' in which he essays the role of Captain Sharan, a commercial pilot. The series is directed by Anubhav Sinha, and is available to stream on Netflix. IANS

Karisma shares throwback pics

Karisma Kapoor is celebrating the birthday of her younger sister Kareena Kapoor Khan with a touch of nostalgia. On Saturday, Karisma took to her Instagram, and dropped several throwback pictures from Kareena's 4th birthday celebrations. In the pictures, Karisma and her mom Babita can be seen sporting a hairdo similar to that of Princess Diana.

In the pictures, one can also see a younger Kareena Kapoor and the 1990s themed decor of the house. The pictures also feature their father Randhir Kapoor.

The actor wrote in the caption, "Celebrating you always from 4th to 44th together forever. Happy birthday to the best sister love you mostest (Don't miss mother and daughter's Lady Di inspired hairstyle). (sic)"

Meanwhile, Kareena's sister-in-law Soha Ali Khan also wished the actor on her birthday with several pictures.

Soha wrote in the caption, "Whether it's work or play no-one does it better than you @kareena kapoorkhan Happy birthday bebo bhabhi, love always." IANS

IN BUDAPEST

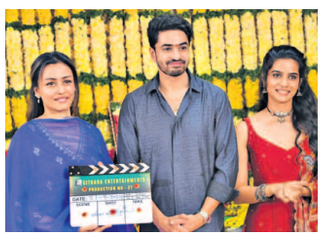
'Uff uff mirchi' moment

Parineeti Chopra has shared a fiery food adventure on how she bravely tackled the challenge of eating one of the hottest chilies in Budapest.

NEW PROJECT

Ashok's next launched

Sithara Entertainments has launched their next Production No. 27 with actor Ashok Galla in the lead, with a puja ceremony.



BENGALI FILM

Mithun ties up with Debasree

Mithun Chakraborty is reuniting with actor Debasree Roy for 'Shastri', their first collaboration in 16 years. The pair earlier starred together in 15 films.

BO SUCCESS

'Yudhra' earns Rs 4.52 crore

Action entertainer 'Yudhra', headlined by Siddhant Chaturvedi, collected Rs 4.52 crore on its opening day at the domestic box office, the makers said on Saturday. '

NOSTALGIA DOSE

Ananya's school girl vibe

Ananya Panday set social media abuzz by unveiling her first look from thriller film 'CTRL'. She sported retro-inspired outfit that exuded vintage schoolgirl vibes.

Parvin Dabas in ICU after car accident

Parvin Dabas was, on Saturday, admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) of a suburban hospital in Mumbai after a car accident, his family said.

Dabas, 50, has appeared predominantly in Hindi and English language films such as Mira Nair's 'Monsoon Wedding', 'Maine Gandhi Ko Nahin Mara', 'Khosla Ka Ghosla', 'The Perfect Husband' and 'The World Unseen'.

His wife, actor Preeti Jhingiani, said in an official statement that Dabas, the co-founder of arm-wrestling competition Pro Panja League, is recuperating in Holy Family Hospital in Bandra.

"We regret to inform you that Parvin Dabas, Bollywood actor and co-founder of the Pro Panja League, has been hospitalised and is in the ICU at Holy Family Hospital Bandra following an unfortunate car accident in the early hours of Saturday morning. Details of the incident are still emerging, but we can confirm that Mr Dabas is receiving medical attention," the wife's statement read.

It further mentioned, "Our thoughts are with Parvin and his family during this challenging time. The Pro Panja League management is closely monitoring the situation and will provide updates as appropriate. We kindly request privacy for Mr. Dabas and his loved ones. We wish Parvin a swift and complete recovery (sic)."

According to the statement, the Pro Panja League management is closely monitoring the situation. The Delhi-born actor most recently starred in 'Made in Heaven' season two and Tahira Kashyap's 'Sharmajee Ki Beti'. AGENCIES

'Hari Hara Veera Mallu' shoot to begin on Sept 23

Power Star Pawan Kalyan has been busy with his active political life and hence couldn't completely concentrate on completing the shoot of his upcoming action epic 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu'. Understanding his priorities, the makers have also decided to focus on upscaling the already massive action sequences to even epic proportions, in the meantime.

Staying true to his word, Pawan has now taken time from his political duties to start shooting once again for the film's first part 'Sword vs Spirit'. The makers are leaving no stone unturned to give an unforgettable theatrical experience to audiences, and every cast and crew member is excited to work with him after a long gap. The new schedule will start from September 23 in Vijayawada. The makers have stated that they are going to shoot a magnificent action sequence under the stunt direction of Hollywood's Nick Powell.

The legendary stunt director has worked for classics like 'Braveheart', 'Gladiator', 'Bourne Identity', 'The Last Samurai', 'Resident Evil: Retribution' and many more. He has won five prestigious Taurus World Stunt awards with 12 nominations. Nick is anticipated to bring in his expertise to the massive action sequence, which is planned to be shot with 400 crew members and a massive number of junior artistes, stuntsmen. Veteran actors like Nasser, Raghu Babu and actors like Sunil, Abhimanyu Singh, and Ayyappa will be part of the shoot too. Young director Jyoti Krisna is planning every detail meticulously to can the action sequence on a never-before-seen scale.

With this crucial Vijayawada schedule, the film kick-starts the race to the finish line as makers are gearing up to release 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu Part-1 Sword vs Spirit' soon.

After he took over, the young director has been instrumental in releasing continuous updates about the film shooting and new joinees in the cast, crew. He's also the person behind the recently-released viral teaser that created huge buzz for the film.

He even brought a legend like Anupam Kher on board for a highly crucial role with actor Bobby Deol playing an important supporting lead role. Beautiful actor Niddhi Agerwal is playing the film's leading lady.

Ace Cinematographer Manoj Paramahamsa is cranking the camera with legendary production designer Thotha Tharani taking care of art department. Above all, Oscar-winning composer MM Keeravani is composing the music for the film.

A Dayakar Rao is producing the film on Mega Surya Productions banner with legendary producer AM Rathnam presenting it. It is set to release in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Hindi and Kannada languages worldwide.

Millie, Jake to tie the knot again

British actor Millie Bobby Brown and Jake Bongiovi are set to host their second wedding in Italy.

The happy couple, earlier, tied the knot in a top-secret ceremony in May. They are currently in Florence ahead of their second wedding this weekend and they kicked off the festivities in the UK before catching a flight to Italy, reports 'Female First UK'. A source told 'The Sun', "Millie and Jake kicked off their wedding celebration in style. They hired an area in Sheesh for dinner with their family, including Millie's parents, Kelly and Robert. Their group was drinking lychee martinis and strawberry daiquiris, but didn't go too mad as they had to fly to Italy." As per 'Female First UK', the duo has planned a spectacular ceremony and reception, and have even lined up a famous singer for the after-party. The insider said: "Millie and Jake have booked a huge British singer to perform." IANS

'Janaka Aithe Ganaka' single's lyrical video out

Suhas and Sangeerthana Vipin-starrer film 'Janaka Aithe Ganaka' is all set to release on October 12, coinciding with the Dasara festival. Recently, the makers have unveiled an entertaining song from the film, humorously depicting the struggles of a middle-class employee, including conflicts with a manager and the challenges faced by salaried workers.

Presented by Shirish and produced by Harshith Reddy and Hansitha Reddy under the Dil Raju Productions banner, the movie is directed by Sandeep Reddy Bandla. The posters, songs, and teasers released have generated significant buzz among audiences. The film's promotional content has received a massive response from viewers.

The new single, 'Em Papam Chesamo', was penned by Krishnakanth.

Sithara Entertainments unveils 'MAD Square's catchy 'Baraat Anthem'

'MAD' became a sensational blockbuster with three college-going boys forming a tight friendly bond, and their unadulterated gags cracking up audiences like never before. Now, the happening production house Sithara Entertainments has decided to bring a sequel with the boys group back to give us a MAD MAXX entertainer, 'MAD Square'.

The young and robust team have kick-started promotions with a cracking 'Baarat Anthem' — 'Laddu Gani Pelli'. They released the energetic track on Friday, as the first single from the album composed by Bheems Ceciroleo. In the first film, the composer came up with the chartbuster song, 'Kallajodu College Papa'. Staying true to the teenmar beats of it, even 'Laddu Gaani Pelli' has unlimited energy and it will definitely make everyone dance in the theatres.

Bheems Ceciroleo himself crooned the song along with folk sensation, singer Mangili. Lyrics by Karsala Shyam stay relevant to the theme and characters of the film. With folk beats and lyrics that have youngsters cracking jokes in a teasing manner, this song stands out and will be an instant addition to our playlists.

'MAD' boys gang — Sangeeth Shobhan, Narne Nithin and Ram Nithin — are back to groove in this number. Their steps for 'College Papa' song bit instrumental imbibed into this new song will send nostalgic tremors for sure. On the whole, the track delivers what we expect from the 'MAD' gang to the tee.

Ace technicians like cinematographer Shamdat Sainudeen ISC, editor Navin Nooli are also on board to create magic once again in tandem with writer-director Kalyan Shankar.

Depp to be presented with Lifetime Achievement Award

Hollywood star Johnny Depp will be honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 19th Rome Film Festival, where his upcoming directorial 'Modi - Three Days on the Wing of Madness' will also be screened.

According to 'Deadline', the film will head to Rome after its world premiere at the San Sebastian Film Festival later this month. The 2024 edition of the Rome Film Festival will take place from October 16 to 27.

Described as a "72-hour whirlwind in the life of bohemian artist Amedeo Modigliani", 'Modi' features Riccardo Scamarcio in the lead role alongside Antonia Desplat and Hollywood icon Al Pacino. The film follows a chaotic series of events through the streets of war torn Paris in 1916. "On the run from the police, his desire to end his career and leave the city is dismissed by fellow artists Maurice Utrillo, Chaim Soutine, and Modi's muse, Beatrice Hastings. Modi seeks advice from his art dealer and friend, Leopold Zborowski, however, after a night of hallucinations, the chaos in Modi's mind reaches a crescendo when faced with American collector Maurice Gangnat, who has the power to change his life," the official synopsis read. PTI